

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Bush re-election met with cheers and jeers

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U.S. uniforms being sold at Baghdad bazaar

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Shaq's strong debut boosts Heat in N.J.

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Miami Heat's Shaquille O'Neal

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2004

Bush vows to press fight against terror

Fresh from victory, president says he'll push for democracy in world Page 8

Arafat reportedly falls into coma



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat

Disputing reports of death, French doctors say the Palestinian leader is clinging to life

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AP photos
Supporters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat chant slogans Wednesday while holding photos of him with French President Jacques Chirac during a demonstration in Gaza City. Arafat was hospitalized at the Percy Military Teaching Hospital at Clamart outside Paris on Friday after collapsing at his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Maryland courthouse fire: Fire investigators returned Thursday to probe the smoldering remnants of the 123-year-old courthouse in Prince George's County, Md.

Working in a light drizzle, investigators were trying to find evidence that would lead them to the cause of a fire Wednesday morning that destroyed the red-brick building in less than three hours.

The building, known as the Duvall Wing of the courthouse complex, had been undergoing a \$27 million renovation for 18 months. Officials believe there were at least 55 construction workers on the site when the fire began in the roof area.

Santa Monica farmers market crash: An 87-year-old man whose car plowed into a Santa Monica farmers market last year, killing 10 people, was ordered Wednesday to stand trial for manslaughter.

George Russell Weller will be tried on 10 counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence, a Los Angeles County judge ruled.

The Santa Monica man is to be arraigned on Nov. 17. Weller, who has pleaded not guilty, could be sentenced to up to 18 years in prison if convicted of all charges.

Weller's attorney, Jim Bianco, told the judge the crash was an accident that occurred when his client hit the gas pedal instead of the brake.

Car-attack case: The attorney for a woman convicted of running over her cheating husband is accused of overcharging her during her murder trial.

Lawyer George Parnham never provided former Friendswood dentist Clara Harris detailed invoices for how he was using extra funds she said, according to papers filed in the lawsuit Wednesday.

Parnham, according to the filings in Harris County civil court, initially required that Harris pay a \$75,000 fee for representing her at the trial court level.

Michael Jackson case: A judge on Thursday rejected a defense effort to remove the district attorney in the Michael Jackson child molestation case on the grounds that the pop star had been the victim of an overzealous prosecution.

Judge Rodney Melville said the law is clear that the only way he could remove District Attorney Tom Sneddon and his office is "if a conflict existed where the defendant could not receive a fair trial." He said no such conflict existed. "I believe he has not been excessively zealous and has not threatened the integrity of the case to this point," the judge said of the prosecutor.

Jackson's lawyer, Thomas Mesereau Jr., said Sneddon and his office had spent more money pursuing Jackson than they have on the cases of serial killers, showing that they had lost perspective.

He said the prosecutors are so caught up in the case that Sneddon misrepresented to grand jurors the potential motivation of the boy's family in accusing Jackson.

World

Chechen operations: A top Chechen security official threatened Thursday to conduct new anti-terrorist military operations in the rugged Pankisi gorge, across the border in neighboring Georgia.

Ramzan Kadyrov, who controls a widely feared security force in war-wracked Chechnya, said Georgia must establish order in the border region, according to the Interfax news agency.

"We live in Chechnya are sick and tired of silently watching terrorists being trained



Japan earthquake: Students take shelter under desks at an elementary school in Tokomachi, Japan, on Thursday following a strong earthquake. Northern Japan is still recovering from last month's magnitude-6.8 quake, the Meteorological Agency said. The latest tremor led to at least one injury. More aftershocks are expected, the agency said. Also Thursday, another victim of last month's quake died, bringing the death toll to 39.

and armed in Pankisi and sent to Chechnya," Kadyrov was quoted as saying by Interfax.

U.N. hostages in Afghanistan: Militants claiming to hold three U.N. hostages said Thursday that talks on their demands, including the release of Taliban prisoners, had broken down, and they would decide Friday whether to kill the trio.

The Jaish-ul-Muslimeen, a shadowy Taliban splinter group, told The Associated Press that Irish-British hostage Annetta Flanagan was "seriously ill" because of the strain of her captivity, and all three were sickened by a diet of little more than cookies.

A purported commander for the group said U.N. and Afghan officials contacted them by telephone Thursday but were "not ready for negotiations."

Ex-Israeli prime minister Barak: Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak announced Thursday he will compete for the leadership of the opposition Labor Party and wants to be its candidate for prime minister in the next election.

Barak's office issued a statement that was published by Israeli media. His aides did not return telephone messages.

Senior Labor officials criticized his comeback attempt, saying Barak had made many mistakes in his short term, which lasted from 1999-2001.

Ivory Coast cease-fire: Government warplanes bombed the largest city in Ivory Coast's rebel-held north Thursday, breaking a more than year-old cease-fire in what a government commander called a major drive to reunite the war-wracked West African nation.

Air raids on the northern rebel stronghold of Bouake threatened an all-out return to Ivory Coast's civil war — ended by a 2003 peace deal after nine months of fighting. The war left Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa producer, split in two, with rebels controlling the north.

Union Carbide disaster cleanup: Experts on Thursday urged the removal of thousands of tons of toxic waste from the Union Carbide pesticide plant in central India where a devastating gas leak killed 15,000 people 20 years ago.

The gas leak at the Union Carbide plant in Madhya Pradesh state capital, Bhopal, was one of the world's worst industrial accidents.

At a seminar on the disaster, experts said nearly 25,000 tons of toxic waste remain in-

side the factory since it stopped operations on December 4, 1984 — a day after lethal methyl isocyanate gas leaked into the atmosphere, killing thousands of people and contaminating local water and soil.

Gulf War Syndrome: Britain is testing the health of thousands of soldiers who fought in Iraq, defense officials said Thursday, as research into Gulf War illnesses continues.

The Ministry of Defense has commissioned specialists to survey 7,700 soldiers who took part in the March 2003 Iraq invasion. The troops have been asked to fill out detailed questionnaires on their physical and psychological health, and will be compensated against a control group of 10,000 soldiers who did not take part in the invasion.

A preliminary report by the King's Center for Military Health Research is expected in April 2005.

Business

Enron collapse convictions: Four former Merrill Lynch & Co. executives and a former midlevel Enron Corp. finance executive have been convicted of conspiracy and fraud in first criminal trial of Enron and Wall Street executives for their role in the energy company's 2001 collapse. The five men were convicted Wednesday of helping push through a bogus year-end 1999 sale of interest in floating power plant barges to the brokerage so Enron could appear to have met earnings targets.

But the jury acquitted a former in-house Enron accountant, Sheila Kahanek, who testified she consistently opposed a verbal promise that the government contended made the deal a loan — that Enron would re-sell or buy back Merrill's interest within six months.

Military

Japan deserter's sentence: Former U.S. Army Sgt. Charles Jenkins believes his conviction and sentence of 30 days in jail for desertion after nearly 40 years in North Korea is "very fair," his defense attorney told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Bringing one of the Army's longest desertion cases to a close, Jenkins, 64, and in poor health, pleaded guilty Wednesday to abandoning his unit in 1965 and aiding the enemy by teaching English to North Korean military officer cadets.

"Sgt. Jenkins and his family believe the sentence was very fair," the lawyer, Capt. James Culp, said in an interview.

Stories and photos by The Associated Press

U.S. jets hit Fallujah ahead of offensive

Rebels threaten to strike oil targets if attack proceeds

By ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. forces pounded parts of Fallujah from the air and ground Thursday, targeting insurgents in a city where American forces were said to be gearing up for a major offensive. Three British soldiers were killed in an attack by guerrillas as they patrolled in central Iraq.

Al-Jazeera television broadcast a threat by an unspecified armed group to strike oil installations and government buildings if Americans launch an all-out assault on Fallujah. The report was accompanied by a videotape showing about 20 armed men brandishing various weapons, including a truck-mounted machine gun.

The attack that killed the three British soldiers Thursday also left a civilian Iraqi interpreter dead and eight British troops wounded, said Lt. Cmdr. Ahmed Ajala, a British military spokesman in Basra.

The British soldiers were part of an 850-strong unit were deployed closer to Baghdad last week to allow U.S. Marines to reposition in Anbar province, home of guerrilla strongholds of Fallujah, Ramadi, Hit and Husaybah.

Early Thursday, U.S. aircraft fired on several barricaded rebel positions in northeast and southeast Fallujah, a military spokesman said. Later in the day, U.S. artillery batteries fired two to three dozen 155 mm shells at insurgent bastions in the city, the military said.

Insurgents and U.S. forces also clashed briefly Thursday in Ramadi, west of Fallujah, but there were no U.S. casualties, the military added.

The fresh action followed over-



Marines of the 1st Division pass by a wall painting of an Iraqi army soldier during training in a former Iraqi army barracks outside Fallujah, Iraq, on Thursday. U.S. forces are preparing for a major offensive in Fallujah and other Sunni militant strongholds in hopes of curbing the insurgency ahead of January's election.

night fighting on the southeastern outskirts of Fallujah after insurgents fired a rocket-propelled grenade at Marines. Two insurgents were killed while no U.S. casualties were reported, said Lt. Nathan Braden, of 1st Marine Division. Hospital officials in Fallujah reported three civilians were injured in the overnight shelling. U.S. forces are preparing for a major offensive in Fallujah, west of Baghdad, and other Sunni militant strongholds in hopes of curbing the insurgency ahead of January's election.

An Iraqi National Guard patrol was hit Thursday by a car bomb in Iskandariyah, an insurgent hot spot 30 miles south of Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 15, Iraqi hospital officials said.

A suicide car bomber killed three and wounded nine others when his explosive-laden vehicle

barreled into the city government offices in Dujail, 46 miles north of the capital, police said.

On Wednesday, a U.S. soldier was killed and another wounded in a roadside bombing 12 miles south of the capital. A suicide driver detonated his vehicle at a checkpoint near Baghdad airport, injuring nine Iraqis and forcing U.S. troops to close the main route for hours.

Gummen killed an al-Fatimi official, Hussein Ali al-Saif, after he left his house in the Yarmouk district of western Baghdad, police said. Al-Fatimi was the general manager of a state-owned company that distributes petroleum byproducts.

The violence served as a grim reminder of Iraq's rapidly deteriorating security situation, which President Bush must address now that he has been re-elected.

On Thursday, Al-Jazeera aired video of three Jordanian truck drivers taken hostage by a militant group calling itself Jaish al-Islam, or Army of Islam. The men appealed to their country to warn its citizens against working with coalition forces in Iraq, Al-Jazeera said, although their voices were not audible on the tape.

They were part of a convoy of seven trucks who came under attack Tuesday near Fallujah, according to an official at the Jordanian Truckers Association. One of the drivers was killed in the attack, two others are still missing and a fourth man escaped, he said.

More than 170 foreigners have been kidnapped and more than 30 of them — including three Americans and a Briton — killed in Iraq since Saddam Hussein's regime

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,123 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 860 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department as of Wednesday. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Wednesday at 10 a.m. EST.

The British military has reported 70 deaths, Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 985 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 751 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers as of Wednesday.

■ U.S. deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Wednesday in a roadside bombing 12 miles south of Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

fell in April 2003.

Another militant group, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, posted a videotape on a Web site showing the beheading of a man it said was an Iraqi army major captured in Mosul.

ing the voters rolls this month and campaigning for the election is expected to begin in mid-December.

Iraq oil security up

ANKARA, Turkey — Iraq's petroleum minister said Thursday security will be increased along an Iraqi-Turkish pipeline, which is still idle following a bomb attack two days ago.

Thamir Ghadban told reporters in Ankara that plans were underway for a "security umbrella," including patrol flights along the pipeline and more oil fields in Kirkuk in northern Iraq to Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, the Anatolia news agency said.

Iraq's oil industry, which provides money for Iraq's reconstruction efforts, has been the target of repeated attacks by insurgents in recent months. The pipeline running from Iraq to a major export route that has suffered from frequent sabotage.

From The Associated Press

U.S. and Iraqis prepare new administration for Fallujah

By JIM KRANE

The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. commanders plan to use a mix of Marines, Army soldiers and Iraqi fighters to drive militants out of Fallujah, and Iraqi authorities have already put together a team of Iraqi administrators to run the city after the fighting is over, a U.S. official said Thursday.

American forces are gearing up for a major assault on the insurgent bastion 40 miles west of Baghdad if interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi issues the order.

Maj. Jim West, an intelligence officer with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said the ground

attack would include American Marines and Army soldiers as well as members of the U.S.-trained Iraqi security force.

Once the fighting was over, the interim Iraqi government would send in a team of administrators to run the city, replacing the hard-line clerics who took control after the Marines called off a three-week siege in April.

"The IIG (interim Iraqi government) is establishing a government to take over Fallujah," West said. "It's an Iraqi government" which would enter the city "just as soon as it's safe for those people to come back in."

West said \$75 million had already been earmarked to repair

the city once Iraqi government control has been re-established. The plan is similar to one used in the Shiite holy city of Najaf when U.S. troops restored government authority after weeks of fighting with radical Shiite militiamen last August.

West said efforts were still under way to resolve the standoff peacefully. Allawi has demanded the city hand over foreign fighters whom Fallujah leaders insist aren't there.

West said U.S. officials expect the militants to employ standard tactics they have used against American troops, including trying to draw them "into a soft spot" rigged with improvised bombs, adding "we're prepared for that."

Abroad Iraqis can vote

BAGHDAD — Iraqis who live outside the country will be allowed to vote in the January national election, the Iraqi election commission announced Thursday.

Commission spokesman Fareed Ayar said the decision was taken Thursday by the body, which is in charge of organizing and conducting the planned ballot.

Iraqis will go to the polls by the end of January to choose a national assembly, which among other things will draft a permanent constitution. The vote is seen as a major step toward building democracy after years of war and dictatorship.

Ayar said the government planned to establish voting centers in countries with large Iraqi populations. But details of how many centers, where they would be located and which countries would be involved have not been taken, he said.

Iraqi authorities began updat-

U.S.-issued uniforms selling at Iraq bazaar

AAFES spokesman says some of the items may have been stolen

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — A bazaar in Baghdad's perilous downtown sells U.S. military uniforms at discount prices.

One shop displayed about 40 U.S. desert camouflage uniforms, along with beige boots, headgear and backpacks. At least one backpack still had an Army and Air Force Exchange Service tag affixed to it.

An entire outfit, boots and backpack included, could be had for about \$55 — about half the original cost of legitimate boots alone.

The sales take on a sinister air considering the deaths of about 50 members of the Iraqi National Guard found shot in the head, execution-style, on Oct. 24 some 95 miles east of the capital. The unarmed troops, destined for home leave, had apparently stopped at a checkpoint manned by terrorists dressed as police officials have said.

The Baghdad market also sold local uniforms of the same type issued to the executed Iraqis.

A U.S. military spokesman, Tech. Sgt. Eric Grill, said he was unaware the uniforms were circulating, but would alert the chain of command.

Another spokesman, Lt. Col. Steve Boylan, said military items routinely appear in local markets abroad. He said it was no different at his previous post in the Far East.

"Things destined for AAFES or bought by servicemembers do show up on local economies," Boylan said. "Sometimes they're thrown away. Sometimes they're knockoffs."

He said Internet sites sold similar equipment, as did surplus stores in the United States.

An AAFES spokesman, Maj. Dave Accetta, said some of the items may have been stolen



WARD SANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

U.S. military-style uniforms such as these are sold at Baghdad's dangerous downtown bazaar. This uniform, including a new Army and Air Force Exchange Service backpack, were all purchased for about \$55.

from exchange trucks or convoy shipments, but had no details regarding the merchandise in Iraq. One exchange employee in Iraq said this past summer, a single such robbery resulted in the loss of \$85,000 in merchandise.

The bazaar hawking the uniforms, Bab Al Sharji, is dubbed a "thieves market" by locals. Customers watch their wallets while perusing the wares. The video vendor sells copies of beheadings of foreigners in Fallujah alongside pornography. The optics vendor sells U.S. military night-vision equipment.

The precise origin of the U.S. uniforms was unclear. Some had no patches. At least one was marked as if it had originated with the Ku-

wait military, but its inside tag showed it was otherwise identical to U.S. issue. Hats and trousers, too, were of standard American design. Boots looked like U.S. desert models, but

were tagged with a Middle Eastern company name. A Bugout Gear Frag Bag backpack was clearly marked as new merchandise intended for sale at an AAFES base store.

The uniform vendor said many of his items are purchased by Kurds. When asked where his military outfit fits originate, the salesman was more vague.

"There were people supplying this stuff to us," he said.

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@mail.estrps.osd.mil

“Things destined for AAFES or bought by servicemembers do show up on local economies.”

Lt. Col. Steve Boylan
Military spokesman

GIs in Afghanistan kill 4 rebels, seize Taliban operative

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. troops killed four suspected militants and captured a Taliban commander in one of Afghanistan's most dangerous provinces Thursday, officials said, while an explosion killed four civilians in an attack apparently meant for Afghan troops.

American soldiers entered a compound in Char Chenar district of Uruzgan province before dawn, U.S. spokesman Maj. Mark McCann said, sparking a gunbattle in which four rebels were

killed. No Americans were reported injured.

"During the search of the compound, they found a bunch of stuff, killed four anti-coalition militants and detained one who was wounded," McCann said.

The troops discovered weapons including rocket-propelled grenades, he said.

McCann didn't identify the suspects. However, Char Chenar's mayor said the wounded man was a local Taliban commander called Hasham Jan. Jan is not believed to be a senior figure in the hard-line militia.

Syed Rasool Khan was in-

stalled as Char Chenar's mayor following the death of his predecessor during an assault on a convoy of U.S. and Afghan forces in September.

The district's deputy mayor followed him into the lengthy list of Afghan officials assassinated by suspected militants on Tuesday, when a mine explosion ripped through his car.

The four civilians died on Thursday morning near Orgun, a town in Pakitika province where U.S. troops man a base overlooking the Pakistani frontier, McCann said.

The civilian vehicle was appar-

ently following a column of trucks from Afghanistan's U.S.-trained Afghan National Army when a roadside bomb exploded.

"It looks like it struck the vehicle and four local nationals were killed," McCann said.

No U.S. troops were involved in the incident, McCann said. He had no word on whether others were injured. Provincial officials had no information on the incident.

Some 18,000 mainly American troops are still hunting militants in Afghanistan, mostly along the porous Pakistani border and often in cooperation with Afghan forces.

Troops saw looting of Iraq facility, report says

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Explosives were looted from the Al-Qaqa ammunitions site in Iraq while outnumbered U.S. soldiers assigned to guard the materials watched helplessly, soldiers told the Los Angeles Times.

About a dozen U.S. troops were guarding the sprawling facility in the weeks after the April 2003 fall of Baghdad when Iraqi looters raided the site, the newspaper quoted a group of unidentified soldiers as saying. U.S. Army reservists and National Guardsmen witnessed the looting and some soldiers sent messages to commanders in Baghdad requesting help, but received no reply, they said.

"It was complete chaos. It was looting like L.A. during the Rodney King riots," one officer said. The eyewitness accounts reported by the Times are the first provided by U.S. soldiers and bolster claims that the U.S. military had failed to safeguard the powerful explosives, the newspaper said.

Iraqi officials told the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency last month that about 380 tons of high-grade explosives, a type powerful enough to detonate a nuclear weapon, had been taken from the Al-Qaqa facility.

The soldiers belong to two different units described how Iraqis snatched explosives from unsecured bunkers and drove off with them in pickup trucks.

The soldiers who spoke to the Times asked to remain unidentified, saying they feared retaliation from the Pentagon.

The soldiers said they could not confirm that looters took the particularly powerful explosives known as HMX and RDX. One soldier, however, said U.S. forces saw looters load trucks with bags marked "hexamine," which is a key ingredient for HMX.

The senior noncommissioned officer said troops "were running from one side of the compound to the other side, trying to kick people out" and that at least 100 vehicles were at the site waiting for the military to leave so that they could loot the munitions.

The Pentagon has ordered accounts that suggest the explosives were removed before the U.S.-led invasion to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and not during the chaos following the fall of Baghdad.

A Pentagon statement last week said the removal of the explosives would have required dozens of heavy trucks moving along the same roads as U.S. combat divisions.

Four soldiers who are members of the Germany-based 317th Support Center and the 258th Rear Area Operations Center, an Arizona-based Army National Guard unit, said the looting happened over several weeks in late April and early May 2003. Asked about the soldiers' accounts, Pentagon spokeswoman Rose-Ann Lynch told the newspaper: "We take the report of missing munitions very seriously and we are looking into the facts and circumstances of this incident."

Italian troops to stay

ROME — Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi reaffirmed Thursday that Italy would keep its troops in Iraq for as long as the Iraqi government wanted.

After a meeting with Iraq's interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, Berlusconi said that "Italy will stay in Iraq according to the requests that will come from a legitimate Iraqi government."

Allawi also received encouragement from Pope John Paul II, a staunch opponent of the war, for the building of democratic institutions in Iraq, and assurances of the pontiff's "closeness to the Iraqi people, so sorely tried by the tragic sufferings of recent years."

John Paul received Allawi at the Vatican and in a brief speech read for the frail pontiff by an aide said he was praying "for all the victims of terrorism and wanton violence" and for those working for the reconstruction of Iraq.

EU backs Iraq elections

BRUSSELS, Belgium — On the eve of a visit by Iraq's interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, the European Union set out details Thursday of a support elections schedule in Iraq next January.

The EU's head office said it would send three experts to Iraq to work with the United Nations and the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq. They also will help train up to 150 Iraqi election observers.

On Thursday, the EU set out details of a \$40.3 million aid package to support the elections.

"Elections are crucial to the development of a democratic and stable Iraq," said EU External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten. He said the aid demonstrated, "the EU's commitment to helping Iraq build for a more peaceful and prosperous future."

The EU said its money for the elections also will go to voter outreach, media development, support for the participation of women and funding for the electoral commission.

Two Iraqi guards killed

BAGHDAD — Gunmen ambushed a carload of Iraqi National Guards on Thursday in central Iraq, killing two, police said.

Col. Ali Abdullah said the morning attack occurred in the town of Mahawel, about 60 miles south of Baghdad this morning.

Four other guardsmen were injured in the ambush, he said.

U.S. surgeons regularly target Iraqi security forces, accusing them of collaborating with U.S. forces. Hundreds of police and soldiers have been killed since the ouster of dictator Saddam Hussein last year.

No court-martial

SAN DIEGO — A military hearing officer recommended that a U.S. SEAL not be court-martialed for allegedly abusing prisoners in Iraq, including one at Abu Ghraib prison who died after being in the custody of the defense lawyer said.

Problems with evidence presented at a pretrial hearing that ended Monday led U.S. Cmdr Andrew Henderson to recommend the unnamed sailor receive a lesser nonjudicial or administrative punishment, said attorney John Tranberg said Wednesday.

From The Associated Press



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

The TSV-1X "Spearhead" pulls into the Port of Djibouti on Wednesday with 14 containers of supplies for Camp Lemonnier. The high-speed theater support vessel was bringing the supplies in from Bahrain.

Army catamaran turns a few heads in Djibouti

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

PORT OF DJIBOUTI, Djibouti — It looks like something Batman would drive.

The new TSV-1X brought cargo Wednesday for the troops at Camp Lemonnier, but it also gave people at the dock a look at the future of the U.S. military at sea. It's expeditionary and, in this case, it's Army.

"At any port we go to, everybody is watching this boat," said Sgt. Jim Lazowski of Arlington Heights, Ill., one of the navigators of the experimental, high-speed catamaran.

While the ship, named the Spearhead, is new, it already has been to war. In March 2003, it delivered a company from the 101st Airborne Division — 157 soldiers with vehicles and gear — to Kuwait during the buildup for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"They rolled off the ship ready to go," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Patrick May, the boat's captain. "In less than four hours, they were ready to get rolling north into Iraq."

That's the idea of the TSV, or theater support vessel, May said. The boats are being built to deliver whole companies intact to wherever they need to be, so they can join the fight quickly.

The Spearhead is capable of transporting one company, but future versions — 12 are scheduled to be built by 2011 — will be bigger and able to transport two full companies instead of just one, May said. They also will have landing pads for helicopters.

The current version is 320 feet long and 87 feet wide. It is jet-propelled by four, 10,000-horsepower diesel engines and reaches a top speed of 42 knots per hour. The ship is capable of carrying 800 tons of cargo and fuel.



Army Sgt. Jim Lazowski of Arlington Heights, Ill., and the 469th Transportation Detachment from Fort Eustis, Va., directs the unloading of cargo on Wednesday from the hold of the TSV-1X.

Of course, fully loaded it takes a little longer to reach full speed, according to Staff Sgt. Paula Buckley of Denton, Texas.

She added that even though the crew sleeps four to a room, the four-inch mattresses help take the crew out of long stints at sea. "It's a pretty comfy ride," Buckley said. "The waves kind of rock you to sleep."

The crew of 32 soldiers, who belong to the 469th Transportation Detachment, is from Fort Eustis, Va. But they're not home very often.

The Spearhead already has logged more than 110,000 miles in less than two years at sea. On its 2½-day voyage from Bahrain to Djibouti, the ship transported a cargo hold filled with supplies, mostly food, for the troops at Camp Lemonnier.

About 1,500 U.S. troops are stationed in Djibouti, a small coun-

try in eastern Africa located across a narrow strait from the Arabian Peninsula.

The strait, which connects the Suez Canal and Red Sea with the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, is an important lane for international shipping. At 17 miles wide, it is also an ideal place for terrorists in a fast boat to cross from the Middle East in order to set up shop in Africa.

The U.S. military established a base at Camp Lemonnier in May 2003. It is manned by members of the Marines, Army, Navy and Air Force. Perhaps the most interesting thing about the Spearhead is its paint job — gray with black trim and the word "Army" in black letters. "Most people in the Army don't think the Army has boats, let alone something like this," May said. "It's a very sexy looking boat."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.strips.esd.mil

Doctors Without Borders exits Iraq

By PAUL AMES

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The international medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres said Thursday it was closing its operations in Iraq because of escalating violence and the targeting of aid workers.

MSF, which is also known as Doctors Without Borders, said it made the decision with "a great degree of regret and sadness."

"It has become impossible for MSF as an organization to guarantee an acceptable level of security for our staff, that they foreign or Iraqi," said Gork Ooms, general director of the organization in Belgium.

Koen Henckaerts, director of MSF operations in Iraq, said the Nobel Peace Prize-winning group ran three aid centers in Baghdad and was setting up a fourth in Fallujah to help people in and around the Sunni militant stronghold, 40 miles west of the capital.

He said the centers were run by 90 Iraqi nationals backed by three expatriates based over the border in Jordan, but it had become too dangerous in Iraq for nongovernmental organizations. No evacuations were planned.

"Over the past months, NGOs increasingly became the target of kidnappings," Henckaerts said by telephone from the group's Brussels headquarters.

CARE International closed its operations in Iraq last month after the abduction of its director there, Margaret Hassan. Two Italian aid workers, Simona Pini and Simona Torretta, were released by their kidnappers after being held for three weeks in September.

Since the August 2003 attack that killed 22 people at U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, many relief organizations have pulled their international staff from Iraq, relying instead on local employees.

However, Hassan's abduction has called that strategy into question. She is married to an Iraqi, holds British, Irish and Iraqi citizenship and has lived in Baghdad for 30 years, helping administer aid to Iraqis.

"Due to the escalating violence in the country, MSF considers it no longer acceptable to expose its staff to the serious risks that apparently come with being associated with an international humanitarian organization," MSF said in a statement posted on its Web site.

MSF said its three centers in the rundown, mainly Shiite Muslim Baghdad neighborhood of Sadr City had held over 100,000 consultations since January. The group also recently started an ambulance service to run people to clinics.



U.S. Marines train in a former Iraqi army barracks outside Fallujah, Iraq, on Thursday.

Bush facing new questions on Iraq, coalition strength

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It could be a tough next four years in Iraq for President Bush, depending in part on the outcome of a planned U.S. attack on the insurgents' stronghold at Fallujah. Will a renewed U.S. offensive break the back of the insurgency? Hungary's announcement Wednesday that it won't keep its troops in Iraq beyond next March underscores another uncertainty: Whether international support for the war, military or otherwise, will grow or shrink.

The answers to those questions will go a long way in determining when the Bush administration might be able to substantially reduce the number of U.S. troops in Iraq — and foresee an end to its huge financial investment — without risking Iraq's collapse into civil war.

"This is a George Bush project, and it's going to stay that way," said Michael O'Hanlon, a military analyst at the Brookings Institution. He expects little new help from other nations, and thinks Bush will soon begin talking more openly about an Iraq exit strategy.

In his victory speech Wednesday, Bush mentioned bringing the troops home.

"We'll help the emerging democracies of Iraq and Afghanistan so they can grow in strength and defend their freedom, and then our servicemen and -women will come home, where they have earned," the president said.

Bush said throughout the election campaign that if given a sec-

ond term he intended to remain on the same course in Iraq, hoping to stabilize the country despite a U.S. death toll that already exceeds 1,100 and has averaged two American deaths every day since an interim Iraqi government was installed in late June.

The United States has about 142,000 troops in Iraq now, roughly the same as one year ago. The Pentagon recently raised the possibility of reducing that number after Iraq holds its first elections in January, assuming the Pentagon can increase the ranks of U.S.-trained Iraqi troops.

A fresh contingent of U.S. forces will enter Iraq over the coming few months, replacing troops who are completing their one-year tours. In a reminder of the unexpected duration of this war and the strain it has placed on the military, the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, which fought the opening stages of the war in 2003, is going back for a second tour.

Getting within sight of an end to U.S. military involvement has been stalled by at least two problems Bush did not anticipate when he launched the March 2003 invasion of Iraq: A creative, shadowy and tenacious insurgency, and setbacks in building a reliable Iraqi security force.

Those two issues have important military dimensions. But they cannot be overcome by the use of force alone, says Army Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast, who was intelligence chief for the U.S. military command in Baghdad during an earlier phase of the war. She says more economic, political and information efforts are needed to complement the role of U.S. and coalition troops.

Fast and other senior officials have said the United States and its coalition partners must communicate more clearly to ordinary Iraqis that they must stand up to the insurgents, take responsibility for rebuilding their own country and realize the United States cannot do it for them. "It's as much about perception as it is about [military] wins and losses on the ground," Fast told a recent Army conference.

In a similar vein, O'Hanlon of the Brookings Institution said: "Either one — Bush or Kerry — despite all this campaign talk about staying the course, would have had to recognize pretty soon that our presence in Iraq is part of the problem. It's necessary, but it's also part of the problem. Therefore, a strategy to get out is actually useful, and it's not a sign of weakness."

Meanwhile, the administration has received far fewer contributions of troops and other forms of assistance than it wanted from European allies like France and Germany that opposed the invasion, and it is unlikely to do much better in the future, given the latest developments.

Hungary on Wednesday set a firm limit of getting its 300 troops out of Iraq by March 31. The interim Iraqi government had asked Hungary a few weeks ago to keep its troops there for about another year.

German Interior Minister Otto Scholz, meanwhile, suggested Wednesday that past friction might be put aside. "We had differences over Iraq but we're not looking back now — we're looking to the future," he said.

However, German officials made clear they still would send no troops to Iraq.

By WILLIAM J. KOLE

The Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — President Bush's "coalition of the willing" in Iraq isn't quite so willing any more.

In a blow to U.S. efforts to keep countries from deserting the multinational force, Hungary said this week it won't keep troops there beyond March 31. The Czechs plan to pull out by the end of February, the Dutch by the end of March, and Japan is feeling pressure to withdraw.

There's no mad scramble to leave, but that could change after Iraq holds elections in January and nations feel their obligations have ended.

"We should never have sent troops to Iraq. Bringing them back now is already too late," Janos Fekete, a Budapest shopkeeper said.

Thursday.

Key allies said this week they'll hold firm in Iraq. Britain said Hungary's decision would not prompt a rethink, and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said Thursday his country's 3,000 troops will stay for as long as the Iraqi government wants. Staying on, he said, was part of Italy's duty in "defending democracy in the world."

Denmark said its 501 troops in the southern Iraqi port city of Basra also will stay as long as needed, and Romania is even considering bolstering its 730-member force for the elections.

Nevertheless, Hungary's announcement that it won't keep its 300 non-combat soldiers in Iraq beyond the end of March dealt a blow to the coalition.

The ex-communist country and many of its neighbors across the former East Bloc have been steadfast in their commitment to the force, in part out of gratitude for U.S. support during the Cold War and help in joining the European Union and NATO.

Early last year, Hungary declared it would stay in Iraq through the end of 2004 as a message to the insurgents targeting U.S.-led forces.

Hungary's new prime minister, Ferenc Gyurcsany, says he doesn't believe in pre-emptive war and has been receptive to public calls for a withdrawal despite an Iraqi request that the troops stay another year. Polls show 60 percent of Hungarians want them home now.

Parliament next week will debate his proposal to extend the

troops' mandate, which expires Dec. 31, by three months. But that would require a two-thirds majority vote, and the country's main opposition party has said it will consider an extension only if the troops are given a U.N. mandate to stay.

"Right now, we feel there are more arguments in favor of bringing the troops home," Mihaly Varga, a prominent Hungarian opposition leader and former finance minister, told The Associated Press.

If lawmakers reject the extension, which seems likely, Hungary's troops could be on their way home by New Year's Day.

In Washington, State Department Richard Boucher played down the threat of significant drawdowns or pullouts.

The administration has worked to preserve and expand the coalition since September. Spain withdrew its 1,300 troops earlier this year.

"It's too early now to start predicting a mass exodus or departure," Boucher said.

For many Japanese, mourning the beheading this week of a 24-year-old Japanese backpacker slain by militants in Iraq, the situation is simply too dangerous.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has been beset by fresh calls for a pullout of his country's 500 troops from the opposition, which blames his pro-U.S. policy for the slaying.

Lawmakers in the Czech Republic voted Thursday to keep 100 military police in Iraq through Feb. 28, but Czech leaders have made it clear they see the Iraqi elections as a logical end to their commitment.

Bulgaria said this week it may "slightly reduce" its contingent of 480 infantry soldiers next year. The Netherlands said its 1,400 troops will finish their mission in March. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania all plan to stay through next June.

Dutch Defense Minister spokesman Joop Vliegenhart said the country is pulling its troops mainly because it feels it's paid its dues. "We think that other countries who didn't have forces in Iraq should pick up the responsibility," he said.

Portugal's 120 police in Iraq are set to end their current tour on Nov. 12. The government was expected to decide Friday whether to keep them there, and Foreign Minister Antonio Monteiro hinted that it would.

Countries look at pulling out of Iraq after the elections

Some say they've paid their dues; others say it's just too dangerous

Hungary's announcement that it won't keep its 300 non-combat troops in Iraq beyond the end of March dealt a blow to the coalition.

2nd term not expected to shake up Pentagon

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — With President Bush's re-election, the plans and programs of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, notably transformation of the military and the strategy in Iraq, are expected to go forward.

Rumsfeld, at 72, is "very energetic" and has goals he still wants to accomplish, Pentagon spokesman Lawrence D. Rita told Stars and Stripes.

"As far as bringing this department into the 21st century [through] transformation, I think we are closer to the beginning than to the end," Di Rita said.

Rumsfeld will stay at least another year in order to see through two of his key undertakings: transformation and the war in Iraq, according to Loren Thompson, a defense analyst with the think tank Lexington Institute

in Alexandria, Va.

"Most people around Rumsfeld say if [he is] asked, he's willing to stay on for a substantial period of time. The biggest reason is transformation of the military, which is only partially complete, and he feels that it is his legacy as secretary."

That's something he wants to see through to fruition," Thompson said.

"And people around Rumsfeld say he believes the strategy in Iraq is going to work if given more time, and [he] wants to stick around to prove he was right."

The war in Iraq will dominate foreign policy as the White House seeks to stabilize and secure the

country, bring in a self-governing body, boost the economy and then bring home the U.S. troops, Di Rita said. There is no time line and progress will be dictated by circumstances and quashing insurgents, he said.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is in the middle of his second two-year term and plans to serve out the remainder of the appointment, which ends Sept. 30, 2005. Typically, chairmen serve only the two two-year terms, an official said.

Some officials are expecting personnel turnover, including the top civilian service chiefs.

The Army's stand-in secretary for the past 18 months, Deputy Army Secretary Les Brownlee, was not nominated for the top spot.

The White House's nomination went to Francis Harvey, who since January 1999 had served as director of the federal contractor

Duratek Inc., was former chief operating officer of Westinghouse Electric Corporation's Industries and Technology Group, and has served on board companies controlled by the Carlyle Group, a private investment firm with close ties to the Bush family.

His confirmation was stalled in the Senate following his Oct. 6 hearing, but is scheduled to be the first order of business when the Senate reconvenes Nov. 16.

Harvey faced criticism during the hearing from Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., a member of the Armed Services Committee, over boosting troop strength, which Reed favors. Harvey was noncommittal during the hearing.

Harvey was nominated Sept. 14, nearly five months after former Secretary Thomas White abruptly resigned in April after repeated warnings from Rumsfeld. But the process was bumpy. The first nominee, Air Force Secretary James Roche, withdrew his

nomination because of controversy over plans to lease Boeing refueling tankers.

Roche also has faced controversy and friction with top leadership, but wants to stay at the will of the president, said Lt. Col. Will Nichols, his spokesman.

"He's taking a wait-and-see approach at what plans the administration has."

Navy Secretary Gordon England remains happy to serve as the Navy's top civilian leader, said his spokesman, Capt. Kevin Wensing.

Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Vern Clark, was confirmed by the Senate on July 8 for a two-year term. Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. John Jumper, is slated to leave his job in September after completing the allotted four-year term. Army Chief of Staff Peter Hain, who earlier took the reins in August 2003.

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NATO starts first course training Iraqi officials

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — NATO's eight-day "pilot program" to train senior Iraqi security officials in Norway is under way and the alliance has already carved out space on its calendar for more, according to British Army Major-General James Short.

Short, acting commander of NATO's Joint Warfare Center in Stavanger, Norway, told reporters Thursday that while NATO officials are waiting for Iraqi officials to request another class, "there is a slot on the calendar next spring" at the center should such a request be rendered.

The make-up of any future classes is not known, Short said.

"This is a pilot course, and we are very much feeling our way," Short said.

The so-called Iraqi Leader training course, the first time NATO has participated in training Iraqis outside Iraq, is focusing on "civilian and military relationships and how the various parties can work together to solve problems," Short said.

Classes began Nov. 1 and have proved a success, Short said, with the Iraqis "very keen to learn and asking" very interesting and challenging questions.

But security in Iraq is so tenuous that one participant declined to offer his name and even whether he was civilian or military.

"We want to go back home and serve our country, not go back home and get killed ... or kidnapped," the official said through a translator.

The Iraqi official said one of the biggest obstacles to calming the security situation "is a lack of coordination between senior officials all over Iraq."

"A lot of wrong decisions were made from various sides," the official said.

As a result, improvements in security "are slow and getting slower," the Iraqi official said. "People are starting to lose confidence in the process."

At the same time, the official said, "we have confidence in Prime Minister [Ayad Alawi] and the interim government ... We hope that if we establish the security forces on the right basis, we will be able" to get security under control.

The eight days of classes, Short said, in-

clude a series of lectures, along with exercises in problem solving and a final exercise that combines all of the lessons learned.

Lt. Cmdr. Joe Carpenter, a Pentagon spokesman compared the course to a senior-level U.S. military course such as Capstone, which is a short class offered to new general officers right after they receive their first star, teaching them the fine points of working with other government agencies and even the media.

NATO's training inside Iraq now includes 60 officers and noncommissioned officers from 10 NATO countries, according to a fact sheet issued by the alliance.

NATO continues to refuse to conduct combat operations in Iraq, however.

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Irish activists to protest refueling U.S. war planes

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK

The Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ireland — Ireland must bar American troop transports and other U.S. military aircraft from landing in this officially neutral country, left-wing politicians and activists demanded Wednesday, ahead of a planned major protest at Shannon Airport.

For the past three years, the United States has made heavy use of the southwest Irish airport as a refueling point for soldiers and equipment bound for Afghanistan and Iraq. Critics say the policy undermines Ireland's appeals for freedom for Irish hostages currently being held by Muslim extremists in both countries.

Prime Minister Bertie Ahern has kept the airport open to the U.S. military, insisting that Ireland's neutrality means that any refueling there would be entitled to the usual rules.

Several fringe protest groups

have repeatedly picketed the airport, but the most prominent left-wing politicians have stayed away. At a news conference Wednesday, however, prominent figures from the opposition Labour Party and from Sinn Féin, the Irish Republican Army-linked party, joined the fringe groups to call for the public to picket Shannon on Nov. 13.

They also criticized the re-election of President Bush and accused U.S. forces of killing more than 100,000 civilians in Iraq.

Sinn Féin's Bairbre de Brun, a member of the Irish Parliament, called for the public to defend our position of neutrality and to oppose the use of the airport as a staging post for war.

The Labour Party's chief whip, Emmet Stagg, accused the United States of using Shannon as a stop-off point for planes carrying terrorist suspects to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he said they faced "illegal detention and possibly torture for information."

IN THE STATES

Bush outlines his 2nd-term agenda

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A minority president no more, President Bush sketched a second-term agenda Thursday that includes fighting the worldwide war on terror and seeking tax overhaul and fundamental changes in Social Security at home.

"I've earned capital in this election, and I'm going to spend it for what I've told the people I'd spend it on," he said.

Asked by a reporter about troop strength in Iraq and whether four extensions for those now serving in Iraq were in the offing, the President said he had not yet received requests from battlefield commanders for more troops, beyond 6,500 soldiers who were told last week that they would be staying.

Bush also pledged to pursue the foreign policy that was a flashpoint in the presidential campaign and has sparked criticism by some American allies in Europe.

"There is a certain attitude in the world by some that says that it's a waste of time to try to promote free societies in parts of the world," he said, a reference to Iraq in particular. "I've heard that criticism," he said.

"Remember, I went to London to talk about our vision of spreading freedom throughout the greater Middle East and I fully understand that that might rattle some and be viewed by some as folly."

Told by a reporter that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had died, Bush said he intended to "continue to work for a free Palestinian state that's at peace with Israel." Later reports said that Arafat, in a coma in Paris, was still alive.

Bush sidestepped questions about changes in his Cabinet and potential vacancies in the Supreme Court, where Chief Justice William Rehnquist recently disclosed he was undergoing treatment for thyroid cancer.

"I haven't made any decisions on the Cabinet yet," Bush said — nor about his top staff, he added. Changes are widely expected in both, possibly at the Justice Department and State Department.

As for the nation's highest court, he said, "There's no vacancy for the Supreme Court and I will deal with a vacancy when there is one."

Bush fielded questions after securing re-election in a campaign framed by the war in Iraq and economic issues at home. Nearly complete returns gave him 51 percent of the popular vote — a contrast to 2000, when he lost the popular vote but won the Electoral College.

For the second straight day, he pledged to reach out to those who opposed his re-election.

"The campaign over, Americans are expecting a bipartisan effort and results. I will reach out to everyone who shares our goals," he said.

The president began his day by



President Bush meets with his cabinet in the Cabinet Room at the White House Thursday in Washington. Left to right next to Bush are Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans, Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, Director of the Office of Management and Budget Joshua Bolten, and White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card.

meeting with his Cabinet. After the news conference, he looked ahead to a weekend trip to Camp David, where he said he would consider personnel changes for the second term.

Earlier, Bush took congratulatory calls from the presidents of Iraq, Afghanistan, Poland and Russia and the prime ministers of Israel and Italy.

In a victory speech late Wednesday, Bush said reaching his goals

"will require the broad support of Americans."

He asked Kerry's disappointed supporters to back him — even though many of his proposals are anathema to those who opposed his re-election.

"I will work to earn it. I will do all I can to do to deserve your trust," he said.

"When we come together and work together, there is no limit to the greatness of America."

Ashcroft likely to leave post

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft is likely to leave his post before the start of President George W. Bush's second term, senior aides said Thursday.

Ashcroft, 62, is described as exhausted from leading the Justice Department in fighting the domestic war on terror since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Stress was a factor in Ashcroft's health problems earlier this year.

Ashcroft is expected to resign before Bush's Jan. 20 inauguration, said aides who spoke only on condition of anonymity. They said there is a small chance he would stay on, at least for a short time, if Bush asked him. The attorney general has not officially informed his staff of his future plans.

Names that have been floated in recent weeks as a possible replacement include Ashcroft's former deputy, Larry Thompson, who would become the first black attorney general. Others include Marc Racicot, who was Bush's campaign manager, and White House general counsel Alberto Gonzales, who is Hispanic.

Bush has new mandate but Powell looks like lame duck

BY GEORGE GEDDA

The Associated Press



Secretary of State Colin Powell, left, has dodged questions about his future in President Bush's administration. He has long been considered a one-term secretary even if Bush was re-elected.

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell has been evasive about his future, skirting questions about the timing of his widely expected departure after four rough-and-tumble years as America's chief diplomat.

In dozens of interviews, Powell has dismissed questions about his plans by saying with a smile, "I serve at the pleasure of the president."

Powell has long been considered to be a one-term secretary of state, irrespective of whether Bush was re-elected. Speculation has been rife for months about possible successors in a second Bush term. Among those mentioned are national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and U.N. Ambassador Danforth.

Last July, Bush suggested during an appearance in Philadelphia that he would be happy if Powell were to remain on. During a September interview with The Associated Press, Powell was asked whether he considered Bush's comment to be an invitation for him to stay on.

"Time will tell. We will see," Powell replied.

One possibility would be for Powell to stay on for a brief period until after the national elections in Iraq, which are supposed to be held before the end of January 2005.

As analysts say it, a post-Iraq election departure for Powell would make more sense than one that could occur just days before the balloting in Iraq but after Bush's second term begins.

At a minimum, Bush's re-election means a series of foreign trips Powell plans will take on a more serious cast than they would have if Sen. John Kerry had prevailed Tuesday.

For his part, Powell will travel to Mexico on Monday for an overnight visit. The following week, he plans to spend four days in Chile as part of the U.S. summit entourage. He then will fly to Egypt for a major international conference on Iraq's future, a meeting Powell hopes to use to expand international cooperation for Iraq.

In the coming days, Powell will be boning up on issues involving Mexico as part of his Monday visit. Mexican officials will be eager to hear more about Bush's proposal to provide legal status — at least in a temporary basis — for millions of undocumented aliens in the United States.

Sen. Edwards' wife Elizabeth diagnosed with breast cancer

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Elizabeth Edwards, wife of former Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards, was diagnosed with breast cancer the day her husband and Sen. John Kerry conceded the presidential race.

Spokesman David Ginsburg said Mrs. Edwards, 55, discovered a lump in her

right breast while on a campaign trip last week. Her family doctor told her Friday that it appeared to be cancerous and advised her to see a specialist when she could.

She put off the appointment until Wednesday so as to not miss campaign time.

Mrs. Edwards had a needle biopsy performed at Massachusetts General Hospital

in Boston, where Dr. Barbara Smith confirmed the cancer, Ginsburg said.

He said the cancer was diagnosed as invasive ductal cancer.

That is the most common type of breast cancer, and can spread from the milk ducts to other parts of the breast or beyond.

More tests were being done to determine how far the cancer has advanced and

how to treat it, he said.

Ginsburg said spirits are high at the Edwards household.

"Everybody feels good about it, that this is beatable," he said.

Edwards, who leaves his North Carolina Senate seat in January, said in a statement, "Elizabeth is as strong a person as I've ever known. Together, our family will beat this."



A cancer patient in Portland, Ore., holds a roll of MEDI-JUANA. With Montana's approval of a medical marijuana initiative, nearly three-fourths of Western states now have such laws — while only two of the 37 states outside the West have adopted them.

Medical marijuana finds acceptance in the West

BY ANGIE WAGNER

The Associated Press

With Montana's approval of a medical marijuana initiative, nearly three-fourths of Western states now have such laws — while only two of the 37 states outside the West have adopted them.

Why is the West so much more receptive to the idea? From a procedural standpoint, it's just easier to get pot issues on Western ballots because most states in the region allow such initiatives. Nationwide, just 24 states allow citizens to put issues on the ballot by petition, bypassing the legislature. Eleven of those states are in the West.

But activists and political scientists also say Westerners are less willing than other Americans to tell their neighbors what they can and can't do. And historically, Western states tend to be in front on social trends.

"I would guess many of the people that voted for it probably don't use marijuana, but they don't want to tell their neighbors can't," said Steven Stehr, political science professor at Washington State University.

"Westerners have a stronger belief in kind of individualism in the old-fashioned frontier sense," said Sven Steinmo, a University of Colorado political scientist and board member for the Center of the American West.

The population also is newer than the rest of the country and states don't have deeply ingrained traditions, said David Olson, political scientist at the University of Washington.

"Our politics in the West are much less constrained... and it gives opportunities for initiatives like the death with dignity issue in Oregon or medicinal marijuana. You name it," Olson said.

Montana has become the 11th state in the country — and the ninth Western state — to allow medical marijuana. The approval came even as Montana voted by wide margins to ban gay marriage and to re-elect President Bush, a Republican.

"We always say in Montana we're extraordinarily independent, so we'll vote for contradictory things," said Jerry Calvert, political science professor at Montana State University in Bozeman.

The Montana initiative passed 62 percent to 38 percent, support that marijuana reform groups say was the highest ever for a medical marijuana ballot initiative.

Oregon voters rejected a measure that would have dramatically expanded its existing medical marijuana program. That may have been too ambitious even for the West, said Bruce Micken, spokesman for the Marijuana Policy Project.

Alaska, which also has an existing medical marijuana law, rejected a measure to decriminalize the drug, though marijuana groups were impressed that 43 percent of voters there supported it.

Outside the region, voters in Ann Arbor, Mich., and Columbia, Mo., approved local medical marijuana measures.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco has ruled that states are free to adopt medical marijuana laws so long as the marijuana is not sold, transported across state lines or used for nonmedical purposes. The ruling covers only those Western states in the circuit. The Bush administration has appealed the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Besides the favorable initiative process in the West, the region is also usually the start of progressive political movements that work their way East, said Keith Stroup, executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

In addition to Montana, Western states that allow medical marijuana are Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon and Washington state. Arizona has a law permitting marijuana prescriptions, but no active program.

Maine and Vermont are the only states outside the West with existing medical marijuana laws.

For now, medical marijuana has not only found acceptance in the West, but the region may set the tone for proposals across the country.

"As medical marijuana becomes more regulated and institutionalized in the West, that may provide a model for how we ultimately make marijuana legal for all adults," said Ethan Nadelmann, executive director for the Drug Policy Alliance.

Proponents of same-sex marriage discouraged by vote to approve bans

BY ELIZABETH MEHRIN

Los Angeles Times

The successful efforts to amend 11 state constitutions to ban same-sex marriage has energized both sides of the highly contentious issue.

Defenders of traditional marriage say voters' resounding support for state measures that limit marriage to a union between a man and a woman proves that a federal amendment is inevitable.

Advocates of gay and lesbian marriage sounded equally determined Wednesday as they vowed to move ahead with efforts to legalize same-sex marriage in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut — and, very likely within the next year, California.

With five new Republican senators elected Tuesday, opponents of same-sex marriage maintain, an amendment to the U.S. Constitution could be introduced and conceivably pass as soon as the next congressional session.

"We are very encouraged," said Carrie Gordon, NBC spokesperson for Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colo. "Basically, what the people said [Tuesday] was: Don't mess with marriage."

But Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in New York, said the vote was only round one of a very long fight. "This is not going to shut down the debate in any way. The debate and the fight will go on."

The 11 states that passed constitutional amendments Tuesday joined seven others that earlier adopted measures to define marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution.

The votes Tuesday against same-sex marriage were clear and conclusive.

In Mississippi, the amendment won 86 percent support; Georgia, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kentucky all polled at least 75 percent support for their amendments, and North Dakota came close to that figure. In Montana and Utah, at least two-thirds of voters supported the amendment; in Ohio,

the figure was 62 percent, and in Michigan, 59 percent.

The vote was closest in Oregon, where 57 percent approved the ban.

Most of the opposition in Oregon came from Multnomah County, where Portland is located, and where earlier this year more than 3,000 gay and lesbian couples were married before a judge drew a halt to the practice.

Sean Cahill, policy institute director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said Wednesday that same-sex marriage supporters raised and spent close to \$2.8 million to fight the amendment in Oregon. He said his organization dispatched 12 staff members to work against the Oregon amendment, and recruited 70 volunteers from within the state.

Cahill said the closer voting margin in Oregon was the result of "a lot of one-on-one talking to voters. It is tedious and it is intense. But this is a strategy that works."

But Robert Knight, director of the Culture and Family Institute of Concerned Women for America in Washington, said Wednesday that foes of same-sex marriage sense that momentum is on their side after the strong state amendment votes.

"People are already moving to enact constitutional amendments in other states — specifically, I can think of Pennsylvania and Illinois," Knight said. "Letters have already been sent to [Republican] party leaders urging them to join the marriage bandwagon."

In May, Massachusetts became the only state to permit gays and lesbians to marry, following a ruling by that state's highest court.

Knight predicted, however, that "same-sex marriage will not survive in Massachusetts."

If other states legalize same-sex marriage, he said, "it will be seen as a bizarre exception to the national trend. America spoke loudly and clearly on Tuesday and said this has gone too far, and it is time to turn back toward moral normalcy."



THE OREGONIAN/AP

Sarah Tomchesson, left, waits with her partner, Gene de Haan, as she is consoled by her father on the phone after learning that Oregon voters passed a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

Still counting ballots in two major races

The Associated Press

Major election races nationwide that remained unresolved Thursday:

■ **Iowa — President:** President Bush held a slim lead with several thousand absentee and provisional ballots still to be counted, likely not until early next week. State officials said that up to 50,000 absentee ballots issued to voters had not yet been returned. More than 13,000 provisional ballots had been identified.

■ **Washington — Governor:** Republican state Sen. Dino Rossi and Democratic Attorney General Christine Gregoire remain optimistic as election officials across Washington state began counting an estimated 900,000 absentee ballots. Gregoire led by fewer than 15,000 votes, 980,190 to 965,871, a difference of less than 1 percentage point.

Kerry's future unclear

Democratic party is fractured after also losing leader Daschle

BY JILL ZUCKMAN
Chicago Tribune

BOSTON — Sen. John Kerry and his aides thought he would be spending the morning after Election Day preparing to take over the presidency.

Instead, he found himself deciding whether to wage a court battle with the state of Ohio, and facing an uncertain political future.

With his candidacy nearly left for dead more than once on his way to this moment, Kerry ended his quest for the White House able to brag that he had won 4 million more votes than any other Democratic presidential candidate.

His closest advisers say that accomplishment will allow him to return to the Senate as a statesman and a leader, someone who can unite a fractured party left leaderless by the defeat of Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

Still unclear is whether Kerry might try to replace Daschle as Democratic leader. Aides said it is too early to tell but that other options are under consideration, such as forming a think tank or a leadership PAC.

Most important, advisers said, Kerry wants to remain a voice for the middle class.

"I will never forget you and I'll never stop fighting for you," Kerry promised Wednesday as he conceded the election to President Bush inside the cradle of democracy, Faneuil Hall.

"I did my best to express my vision and my hopes for America," he told supporters in the old civic meetinghouse, standing below a Revolutionary-era painting titled

"Liberty and Union Now and Forever." Kerry pulled the plug on his presidential quest late Wednesday morning after conferring with advisers who had concluded there was no way for him to win mathematically despite the lawyers' push to litigate.

In the days leading up to the election, Kerry and his aides believed they would win based on polling from battleground states. And on Election Day, early exit polls suggested Kerry was on his way to victory, but as Florida began to slip away the mood turned grim.

"It's a very difficult election to understand," said Tad Devine, one of Kerry's senior strategists, citing the Democratic nominee's wide margins with independent and women voters, usually a formula for success.

Campaign officials were disheartened because of the promising exit polls.

In the closing hours of the campaign, Kerry had seemed confident of victory, sure of his message, and serene as the finish line came into view.

But Kerry the candidate and his campaign had had a multitude of problems. He demonstrated a humorless intensity, and struggled to come across as likable and warm. On the stump, he was uneven, often providing his audiences with elaborate policy prescriptions that gave little opportunity for applause.

So caught up was he in the nuance of his ideas that Kerry often gave ammunition to his opponent, contradicting himself as he thought aloud.

"I actually voted for the \$87 billion before I voted against it," Kerry said last

"I will never forget you and I'll never stop fighting for you."

Sen. John Kerry
during his
concession speech



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., waves outside Faneuil Hall on Wednesday after delivering his concession speech in Boston.

spring as he tried to explain why he had opposed a supplemental spending bill to fund U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Caught on tape, that one sentence allowed Bush to nail Kerry as an unprincipled flip-flopper who would say anything to get elected, even if untrue.

His campaign organization also was beset with problems, and his campaigns have always been messy affairs.

Still, by the campaign's end, Kerry had begun connecting with voters in a way that had often eluded him earlier.

In Xenia, Ohio, Michael Adams stood up in the high school gymnasium and told voters how he felt to lose his job at the Delphi

manufacturing plant. He described what it was like to cash out his retirement plan to pay for household bills. And he told the rapt crowd why he had decided to vote for Kerry.

Later, when a woman asked Kerry to name his hero, he reeled off several, including Christopher Reeve, the late actor and advocate for medical research. Then he paused, and with some emotion, added one more name: "People like Michael Adams. People who overcome adversity. People who show courage every single day in this country and often aren't recognized for it. There are a whole bunch of folks who are working against odds."

Potential candidates line up for race for president in 2008

BY TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even as Democrats lick their wounds and Republicans bask in President Bush's second-term victory, would-be presidential candidates for 2008 already are maneuvering for position.

"You can be disappointed, but you cannot walk away. This fight has just begun," Democratic vice presidential nominee John Edwards told party loyalists in a speech that could qualify as the leadoff stump speech of the next presidential campaign.

Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee was first out of the box among prospective GOP candidates with a "victory tour" of the South to showcase victorious Republican Senate candidates from the region.

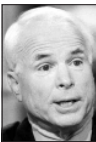
Almost as soon as the curtain dropped on the 2004 presidential race, one was raised on the 2008 contest — never mind that the midterm congressional elections of 2006 come first.

The next presidential cycle will be wide open on both sides. Bush is limited to two terms. And while the incumbent's vice president is usually the favored next-up nominee, Vice President Dick Cheney, 63 and with a history of heart disease, has ruled out a run for president.



Clinton

Edwards



McCain



Giuliani

Sen. John Kerry could run again. But Democrats Al Gore, the 2000 nominee, found the comeback trail a difficult one.

Kerry's defeat and concession speech Wednesday cleared the way for 2008 runs by both Edwards, now a senator from North Carolina, and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York.

Clinton, who could have been sidelined until 2012 with a Kerry-Edwards victory and re-election in 2008, is now front and center among would-be Democratic contenders. And her supporters were busy getting her name in circulation.

The former first lady has plenty of name recognition and a wide following. But some analysts suggest she could meet the same fate as Kerry — as a liberal senator from a Northeastern state, despite the years she spent in Arkansas.

"She is a person who has a lot of people wanting her to run. She'll be a strong contender. But she also motivates the base of the opposition," said James Thurber, a political scientist at American University.

Thurber said it's important for Democrats to nominate a candidate who can win at least some Southern states — as Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton had done, but which Kerry and Gore failed to accomplish.

Edwards might seem to have an advantage, being from North Carolina. The trial lawyer with a southern drawl drew high likability ratings on the campaign trail, both during the Democratic primaries and as Kerry's running mate.

But he was unable to bring his own state into the fold for Kerry.

Edwards' liabilities include lack of political and foreign policy experience. And his decision not to seek re-election to the Senate this year will make it hard for him to stay in the spotlight.

Doug Schoen, who was President Clinton's pollster, said it is too early "to talk personalities. The party's got to get repositioned first. It has to get back to the center with an aggressive assertion of traditional values."

Other Democrats who might seek the presidential nomination in four years include Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana and Govs. Rod Blagojevich of Illinois and Tom Vilsack of Iowa. And up and coming, perhaps for a presidential bid down the road, if not in 2008, is Illinois' Barack Obama, who will be the only black member of the Senate when he is sworn into office in January.

There's no shortage of potential Republican candidates, either.

Besides Frist, the lineup includes Sens. John McCain of Arizona, George Allen of Virginia, Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and Chuck Hagel of Nebraska. Also, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and at least two governors — Mitt Romney of Massachusetts and George Pataki of New York.

There also is Jeb Bush, although the Florida governor has said he won't try to follow his father and brother to the White House.

Peterson trial in jury's hands

By BRIAN SKOLOFF

The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — Jurors in the Scott Peterson murder case began deliberating whether the former fertilizer salesman killed his pregnant wife, and will remain sequestered until they can decide between a conviction based on largely circumstantial evidence or an acquittal that accepts the defense's theory of a possible frame-up.

The panel, which has sat through more than five months of testimony, met for more than four hours Wednesday before retiring for the day. They were to continue deliberations Thursday morning.

Judge Alfred A. Delucchi sent the panelists into the jury room after about 45 minutes of instructions. Delucchi plans to keep the jury sequestered until it reaches a verdict.

Prosecutors claim Peterson strangled or smothered his wife, Laci, on Dec. 23 or 24, 2002, then dumped her weighted body into San Francisco Bay. Her badly decomposed remains and those of the fetus were discovered four months later, not far from where Peterson claims to have been fishing alone the day she vanished.

Defense lawyers claim someone else abducted and killed the Modesto woman, then placed the bodies in the water.

The jury has as two choices should it decide to convict — first-degree murder, carrying a possible death penalty, or second-degree murder, carrying two sentences of 15 years to life.

"[For] first-degree murder, you need two things: expressed malice and intent to kill and premeditation," Delucchi told jurors. "Then you also have second-degree murder," a lesser charge the judge added after finding there was ample evidence to support a case that did not involve prior planning.

The trial began with jury selection in March, and opening statements were in June.

Prosecutors argued in their final remarks to jurors Wednesday that it is "ridiculous" to think

someone would frame the former fertilizer salesman by hiding the bodies in the bay, hoping they would one day be discovered, as defense lawyers suggested.

"You can't base a reasonable doubt on an unreasonable interpretation of the evidence," prosecutor Rick Distaso said in his rebuttal to the defense closing argument.

Defense lawyer Mark Geragos has conceded all along that Peterson, who was having an affair at the time Laci vanished, is a liar and a cheat. But he said he shouldn't be convicted of murder.

"You're not supposed to just lie; this case on whether or not you like Scott Peterson," Geragos told jurors.

Peterson

25 years later, former hostages discuss Iran

The Associated Press

McLEAN, Va. — In the minds of many, terrorists struck their first blow against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. But others look back exactly a quarter-century ago, on Nov. 4, 1979, when 66 Americans were taken hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Iran.

Most remained in captivity for 444 days. Today, reflecting on their experiences through the prism of 9/11, the war in Iraq and two decades of tumultuous relations with the Middle East, many say the United States was too late to recognize that a new era had begun.

"The day they took us is the day they should have started the war on terrorism," said Rodney "Rocky" Sickmann, 47, of St. Louis County, Mo., an embassy security guard.

Many agree that terrorists were emboldened by their success in the Iran hostage crisis — none of the hostages were killed, but the U.S. government agreed to release \$8 billion in frozen Iranian assets — and see the kidnappings and beheadings in Iraq as a consequence.

"Given the terrorist modus operandi nowadays, we probably wouldn't come out alive. They weren't as bold then. They had a latent fear of the

United States," said Chuck Scott, 72, of Jonesboro, Ga., a former Green Beret in Vietnam who was an Army colonel when he was taken hostage.

Steven Kirtley, 47, of McLean, who was a Marine security guard at the embassy, said that while he's grateful everyone survived, he's also angry about what he sees as America's largely ineffectual response to the hostage-takers.

He called the episode "a stepping stone to get that terrorist movement going. It was such a terrible loss of face ... such a show of weakness that I still don't think we've recovered."

Fifty-two of the hostages were held for the entire 444 days. Of those, 11 have since died.

Among the rest, memories of that time have resurfaced with the kidnappings and beheadings of Americans in Iraq.

"When I saw them there blindfolded with the guys with the ski masks

on — I had gone through those things in Iran," said Rick Kupke, 57, of Rensselaer, Ind. "I can tell exactly what they felt and the fear that's going through them."

William Blackburn Royer Jr., 73, of Katy, Texas, remembers being lashed awake by the screams of his captors, "herded like cattle" into another room, stripped naked and forced up against a wall in front of a firing squad.

"The whole thing was a shock to the system — my legs were shaking from the insecurity of the situation," he said. "It was intended as a good psychological upheaval."

While nearly all the hostages said they feared for their lives at some point, many said their memories center on the tedium. L. Bruce Laingen, of Bethesda, Md., the embassy's charge d'affaires, was the highest ranking American taken hostage. He said it doesn't make sense that 25 years later the United States has little dialogue with Iran, considering the large American stake in the Middle East. He mainly faulted Iranian leaders for pursuing hostile policies such as developing nuclear technology and continuing to threaten Israel.



THE WASHINGTON POST/AP

A subway car lies on top of another one after a train collision at the Woodley Park-National Zoo Metro station in Washington on Wednesday. The crash, which injured at least 20 people, happened just after a loaded six-car train pulled into the station. It was struck moments later by an empty six-car train traveling in reverse down the same track.

D.C. subway wreck injures at least 20

By CANDACE SMITH

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An empty subway train rolled backward into a train full of passengers near the National Zoo on Wednesday, injuring at least 20 people, transit officials said.

The second train, carrying about 70 passengers, had pulled into one of the city's busiest stations moments before the empty train backed into it. Most of the 75-foot-long rear car of the empty train came off the tracks and about one-third of its aluminum shell was pulled apart.

Witnesses said the operator began screaming for people to get off the occupied train a few seconds before the impact.

"The next thing we knew there was a big crash,

and a lot of dirt and dust flying everywhere, and panic, and everybody just ran out of the Metro station," said Mike Cucciarini, a teacher traveling on the train with more than 40 kids from a District of Columbia charter school. Thirteen students were among the injured.

None of the injuries was life threatening, said Alan Etter, a fire department spokesman. He called it "astounding," given the force of the crash, that more people weren't more seriously hurt.

The crash happened after a loaded six-car train pulled into the Woodley Park-National Zoo Metro station about 12:50 p.m., Metro spokesman Steven Taubenfeld said.

Officials said they were questioning the two drivers and examining mechanical records. Damage was estimated at \$1.5 million.

Scientists find addictive gene in mice during nicotine study

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — California researchers fiddled with a single gene to create mice hypersensitive to nicotine, pointing to a single molecule partly to blame for nicotine's addictive allure.

The genetically engineered mice were tripped up by the tiniest exposure to nicotine — 50 times less than the level of nicotine coursing through a typical smoker's blood. Once hooked, the mice experienced classic signs of nicotine dependence that keep smokers puffing, the research team reports Friday in the journal Science.

In humans, reward arrives as a pleasant little jolt of dopamine, a calming brain chemical unleashed by nicotine. More smoking produces the body's tolerance for the drug. Sensitization means not feeling good without a nicotine fix, said Henry Lester, a physiology professor at the California Institute of Technology who was among the paper's 10 authors.

In mice, researchers saw reward when mice chose nicotine hits over salt, changed body temperatures as evidence of tolerance and more running around among sensitized mice.

The findings "not only provide direct evidence of how nicotine promotes dependence, but also raise fundamental questions about the genetics of addiction," researchers at the Centre Medical Universitaire, in Geneva, Switzerland, wrote in a companion piece.

More than 4 million people around the globe die from smoking-related causes each year.

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Work for pride, not badge

I have been reading all the letters about who deserves the Combat Infantry Badge. It bothers me to see that soldiers are worrying about awards and rewards. Wearing a CIB would be an honor, but I do not care if I receive one. Earning a CIB does not make me a man. Doing what I am supposed to do while deployed to Iraq makes me a man. When I get off the plane the only badge I will be wearing is the badge of pride, honor and personal courage that I have earned.

I am a combat arms soldier with the field artillery, aka "King of Battle." We do not have a combat badge, which I feel we should. Since arriving in Iraq our howitzers have stayed in the motor pool, with the exception of one live-fire exercise. We are outside the wire on a daily basis. Our patrols are out there 12-15 hours at a time. Under our own command, we are conducting patrols, raids, cordon and searches, observing points, manning gates, escorts for explosive ordnance disposal and quick reactionary forces. So if anyone deserves the CIB, other than infantrymen, it is us. Still, we do not ask for a CIB. We are artists; we do our jobs without expecting something in return.

So to all soldiers I say this: "Do your job as well as you can. Do what is necessary to win this war. Do your job without expecting a reward, award or decoration. Do what you have to do to get home safe!"

Staff Sgt. Brian R. O'Connor
Camp Liberty, Iraq

Drivers have job to do

I have read a fair number of responses to the actions of the 343 Quartermaster Company ("Army investigating why 19 failed to report for live-fire convoy in Iraq article, Oct. 17). Let's face it, war is never a safe thing. There are times when commanders must make the decision to send out troops with less than optimal equipment or resources. I am sure that a good number try to make sure that their troops are well-protected, but they cannot provide for 100 percent safety all of the time.

History is replete with instances where decisions were made to send soldiers into harm's way, knowing that a high cost is sometimes paid to secure an objective that was important to the outcome of a battle or war that ended up saving more lives than if those soldiers had not performed the mission given to them.

While I do not know the nature of the jet fuel in question, a fueler tool that jet fuel and diesel are almost essentially the same. The fueler tool could still be used in vehicles or generators, from what I have been told. If the outcome of a battle depended on the delivery of that fuel, would people be so quick to say that the right thing was done by the troops in that company?

We express our concerns, we improvise when we can, we take precautions, but we obey our lawful orders. As soldiers we are not afforded the luxury of choosing which

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orders we obey and which ones we ignore. The line from "The Soldiers' Guide," Pg. 7-21.13, Paragraph 1-13, says it best: "And the warrior ethos urges the truck driver along roads bordered by minefields because fellow soldiers at an isolated outpost need supplies."

Sgt. Charles M. Sheldon
Camp Taj, Iraq

Don't extend tours

I agree with the writer of "An important project" (letter, Oct. 20). My husband also was mobilized in December, and I was told it was going to be a year in country. Now I hear rumors about an extension and, as the writer said, that has an impact on families of Reserve and National Guard soldiers in the States and the soldiers' civilian jobs. I know they are supposed to get their jobs back, but they're not guaranteed the same position or pay.

That's why we have active-duty military. They don't have to worry about their jobs, because that is their job. Probably some wives are pleased that their husbands have to stay longer because the money is good. But money is not everything; I prefer to be with my husband and our family enjoying our grandkids, and have him at a regular job rather than working on a project that is not important.

The upper command should ask what people want to stay, and then stay with whoever decides to do so. People will stand by those soldiers who stay — at least I will.

Luz N. Algarin
San Antonio

Soldiers: Equal, but different

Regarding the letters on women in combat units: Even though men and women are considered equal, we must remember that there are basic differences that make them more or less suitable for different jobs — although there are always exceptions.

Contrary to popular belief, chivalry is not dead and most men would be uncom-

fortable with women in the battlefield. They would find themselves worrying more about the women than the enemy.

Being equal does not mean everyone would have the same strengths and do the same things. Men and women are equal but different — all should accept this and realize there is nothing wrong with that.

Pfc. Kevin D. Doyle
Camp Buehring, Kuwait

AAFFES profits on gas prices

Apparently the Army and Air Force Exchange Service has decided to take a little more of our money for profit. According to the article "AAFFES gas prices climb" (Oct. 29), it raised the price to 10 cents above the U.S. average prices paid by the American Automobile Association.

AAFFES officials used to say its prices were the same as U.S. prices. But this time they raised prices beyond that level, which shows the continued greed of an organization that is supposed to be part of our benefits (as they advertise).

I still can't figure out how AAFFES can charge this since it pays no state taxes, is subsidized by the U.S. government and does not pay for its facilities. So where does all the money go? Who knows? I do know this: I have a permanent change of station in the States in December and I can't wait to use my dollars to pay for cheaper gas, products and services off post — in fact, anywhere but AAFFES.

The last question I have is: What will AAFFES do when we get back to Europe? It knows it can't survive stateside alone. It won't be long before it is a ghost of the past, and good riddance.

Staff Sgt. Rick Jones
Wiesbaden, Germany

New spirit at Hanau High

As a parent of a student attending Hanau High School in Germany, I would like to congratulate the coaching staffs of all the sports for a spectacular season — and in particular the coaches of the football team.

Hanau High, from what I was told and have witnessed, has not displayed or had this much school spirit and pride in a very long time. This does not happen by accident. It takes and took the students, teachers, coaches, parents, volunteers and the community to make this year what was. While the football team may not have made it to the division championship, it has brought a breath of fresh air to a school that has needed one and is to be congratulated on a job well done.

Our children are our greatest assets and investing in them through volunteering, coaching, tutoring, mentoring and parenting will produce benefits far beyond what we can foresee. This football season has been a prime example of what can happen when we as a community take an active interest in our children. I, like many, can only look forward to next season. Go Panthers!

1st Sgt. Lawrence L. Ellison
Hanau, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

Democrats' failure was a series of missteps

"I think the Union army had something to do with it."

— Gen. George Pickett, years afterward, on why his charge at Gettysburg failed.

John Kerry's liberalism had something to do with his defeat. Hence so did this: By Jan. 20, 2005, all the defeated presidents for 44 consecutive years will have come from three Southern states — Texas, Arkansas, Georgia — and southern California.

George Will



Kerry ran a high-risk "biography candidacy" based on a four-month period 35 years ago. His contrasting silence about his 20 Senate years echoed. He was an anomalous kind of challenger. The most important change he promised would be clear restorations or resistances. That is, he campaigned as the candidate of complacency, albeit a curbed, backward-looking complacency. Regarding foreign policy, he promised to turn the clock back, to the alliance-centered foreign policy prior to the intrusion of the "nuisance" of terrorism. Regarding domestic policy, he promised to stop the clock, preventing any forward movement on entitlement reform to cope with the baby boomers' retirements.

Never did Kerry himself do anything to change the campaign's dynamics. He counted on events in Iraq, and on the power of his

party's unceasing belief that Bush is an imbecile. But Democrats cannot disguise their bewilderment about how to appeal to a country that is so backward, they think, that it finds Bush appealing.

Democrats ... should rethink their compressed nominating calendar — Kerry was effectively selected by the 135,000 who voted for him in Iowa and New Hampshire — and the fetish of allowing those two states ... to dominate the process.

As part of its penance for nominating a senator, and one more liberal (according to Americans for Democratic Action) than Walter Mondale, the Democratic Party should purge its Michael Moore faction. Moore is unhinged by his loathing of Bush and of the country that has re-elected him.

Moore and the hordes of his enthusiasts are a stain on the party — as are those Democratic senators and representatives who in June made a merry festival of the Washington premiere of "Fahrenheit 9/11." Moore illustrates the fact that the Republican Party benefits — it is energized by resentment — when the entertainment industry and major journalistic institutions (e.g., The New York Times, CBS News) enlist as appendages of the Democratic Party's advocacy apparatus.

Never have Americans felt less affinity with Europe, nor have their politics been more European, meaning organized around ideologically homogenous parties. Just 25 years ago there were many liberals and conservatives in both parties. On Tuesday, four moderate-to-conservative Texas Democratic congressmen were defeated, the result of a second redistricting since the 2000 Census. A conservative George Repub-



LEADERSHIP THAT HAS UNITED THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

lican won a Senate seat vacated by a conservative Democrat and a conservative Louisiana Republican won a seat vacated by a moderate Democrat. This nearly completes the process of producing a perfect overlap of America's ideological and party parameters.

Unlike the two most recent incumbent presidents re-elected, Bush did not run on rhetorical froth — "Morning Again in America" (1984), "A Bridge to the 21st Century" (1996). He will feel vindicated in his foreign policy and empowered for his well-advised domestic agenda of tax cuts, tort re-

form, entitlement reform and conservative judicial nominees ...

Since 2000, the issues driving civic discourse have changed radically but the electoral map has changed negligibly ...

The nation's population center did not cross the Mississippi until the 1980 Census. Today it is in Phelps County, Mo., heading southwest, away from the Democratic Party with its apparently metabolic impulse to ignore such realities.

George Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Strategists did their homework, and Bush benefited

Never shy about claiming credit for Bush White House sent Chief of Staff Andrew Card out at the ungodly hour of 5:39 a.m. Wednesday as David Broder

David Broder



re-election by cinching the 20 electoral votes of Ohio.

This time, the boast was better-founded than was the similar claim four years ago when Florida was still locked in a dispute that would eventually last 36 days and wind up in the Supreme Court.

Within hours, John Kerry placed the phone call to the president conceding that Ohio would be in the Republican column again — and Bush could stay in the White House.

This time, unlike 2000, Bush bested the Democratic nominee in the national popular vote, the standard most Americans tell pollsters they believe should determine who sits in the Oval Office. He leads Kerry by 3½ million votes.

And he did it the right way — the old-fashioned way — by galvanizing more of his supporters than Kerry managed to do. This was not, as some embittered Democrats had forecast, the result of voter intimidation or suppression. Democrats and their allies in labor and liberal organizations did their best job ever of mobilizing their base, only to see the Republicans match and exceed that effort.

What happened this year was foreboded by the Republican success in the mid-term election of 2002. Much as it may pain them to admit it, Democrats have to realize that the combination of Bush's appeal to conservatives and the organizational techniques developed under the direction of Karl Rove are beating them at their own game.

This was another top-to-bottom Republican victory, one that depended on 109 majorities in the House and Senate, just as the 2002 election had done, and defeated the Democrats' skillful Senate leader, Tom Daschle, in the process. Bush strategist Rove and his partner, Ken Cuccinelli, the manager of the president's campaign, devoted an unprecedented \$125 million or more and years of work to identifying potential Bush supporters in battleground states such as Ohio — and then getting them to the polls.

They applied on a national scale the tools Rove developed with Bush's encouragement in converting Texas into a one-party state during the six years of Bush's governorship.

A crucial element of the strategy is the mobilization of religious conservatives, those normally more conscientious about going to church than about voting. Exit polls showed more than 1 in 5 voters Tuesday named moral values as the most important issue determining their vote — more than cited terrorism, the economy or Iraq. More than three-quarters of them supported Bush.

Terrorism was Bush's trump card in this political game, a high card he had picked up by his stalwart performance following the 9/11 attacks and the emotional bond he formed with millions of Americans at that time.

But the economy and Iraq had disappointed or dismayed most of those who went to the polls, and it was remarkable Bush could overcome issues that would have sunk most other candidates.

It may well turn out, once the returns are analyzed in detail, that the Supreme Court of Kerry's own Massachusetts helped the mobilization of these traditionalist and fundamentalist religious voters by its decision last year approving gay marriage.

That decision spurred the submission of anti-gay marriage initiatives that were passed on Tuesday in all 11 states where they made the ballot — including Ohio. Phil Burreuss, who ran the Ohio initiative campaign, told me last week that the volunteers who collected the signatures to qualify it for the ballot also registered 54,000 new voters.

The Massachusetts court decision was "a lightning bolt that hit right in the pulpit and ignited the whole congregation," he said.

That will no doubt curb Bush's mind when he contemplates choices for the U.S. Supreme Court — a process whose imminence was dramatized on election eve by the disclosure of Chief Justice William Rehnquist's serious illness.

Democrats were well aware that the future of the judiciary was only one of the prizes at stake in this year's election. They came close to winning, and can point to the frailty of the mandate that Bush received from a nation still deeply divided, one where most women, city dwellers and minorities voted against the president.

But the democratic process — in an election that fulfilled all its most important requirements — endorsed the Bush presidency. And if we know anything about him, we know he will exercise the full powers of his office.

David Broder is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



IN THE WORLD

Officials: Arafat in coma

The Associated Press

PARIS — A gravely ill Yasser Arafat reportedly slipped into a coma and anxious Palestinian officials held an emergency meeting Thursday on how to prevent unrest while their 75-year-old leader was fighting for his life.

A swirl of reports that Arafat died were quashed by doctors at a French military hospital, who said he was alive.



Arafat

Arafat's aides, however, said his condition was very serious.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia said there had been no change in Arafat's condition. Palestinian officials said Arafat was in a coma in the intensive care unit.

Arafat's chief of staff, Ramzi Khoury, called an Associated Press reporter from Paris and told him: "I am standing next to the president's bed; he is in grave condition."

Arafat's personal physician, Dr. Ashraf Kurdi, told Israel TV's Channel 2 that Arafat was still alive.

There also were media reports that Arafat had died or was brain dead. The Israeli network reported that Arafat was brain dead but remained on life support.

Kurdi told Dubai-based Al-Arabiya TV that a brain scan showed Arafat had not suffered a

Palestinians leaders hold emergency conference

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Anxious Palestinian leaders held an emergency meeting Thursday after Yasser Arafat was moved to the intensive care unit at a French military hospital.

Three Arafat aides denied the 75-year-old was comatose, but said his condition was serious. Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath said top officials were in touch with Arafat's hospital every half hour to check on his condition.

"The [Palestinian leadership] is in constant meeting to follow up on the president's health situation," he said from the West Bank city of Ramallah, where leaders of the PLO and Arafat's Fatah movement were meeting.

Israeli military leaders, including Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, were discussing Arafat's declining health. Israel has prepared contingency plans for Arafat's death, including how to prevent attempts to bury Arafat in Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has said he would not permit Arafat to be buried in the disputed city, claimed by both Israel and the Palestinians as their capital.

hemorrhage or stroke.

"Arafat has no type of brain death," Kurdi told Al-Arabiya.

Anxious Palestinian leaders held an emergency meeting in the West Bank on Thursday (see story at right). Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath said top officials were in touch with Arafat's hospital every 30 minutes to check on his condition.

A prolonged Arafat incapacitation or death — could have profound impact on the Middle East. There are fears of unrest among Palestinian factions, which Arafat, viewed as a national symbol by even some who opposed him, was largely able to prevent.

Furthermore, chaos in the

West Bank and Gaza could make any cooperation with Israel even more difficult.

On the other hand, Israel and the United States have in recent years shunned Arafat as a terrorist and an obstacle to peace, and his replacement by a new leadership could open the door to renewed peace talks. Such a scenario could affect Israel's current plans to pull soldiers and settlers out of the Gaza Strip in a unilateral move not coordinated with the Palestinians.

Shaath denied media reports that Arafat had transferred powers to Qureia. "It's not true," he said.

Sudan troops destroy Darfur camps

By EMILY WAX

The Washington Post

AL-JEER SUREAF, Sudan — Gripping a pair of pliers, a doctor pried a bullet from Aminah Khairin, swollen and bleeding left arm. Eight hours earlier, at dawn Tuesday, she had been asleep in a shelter of grass and sticks when government soldiers and police stormed into this camp of 5,000 in South Darfur.

Residents and relief workers said the troops burned shelters, smashed water pipes, fired tear gas and beat people as they fled half-asleep from their huts. Within five hours, they said, the camp was reduced to ashes and about 100 residents were crammed into the makeshift clinic, seeking first aid for gunshot wounds, burns and bruises.

"I saw the military coming and heard some shots. Then I felt pain and saw my arm bleeding. Now, my heart is burning with anger," said Khairin, 26, gripping her arm to steady it while the doctor worked in the shade of the mud-and-straw clinic. "There was a lot of blood, and then they started burning my hut. The Sudan is not doing enough to protect us. We are so tired. Can someone please come help us?"

With violence still raging in Darfur's 20-month conflict between African rebels and pro-government forces, aid workers and camp residents said they feared Tuesday's pre-dawn assault was the beginning of a campaign to force displaced people back to villages where they could be vulnerable to further attack by Arab militias known as the Janjaweed.

Within a few hours of the attack, camp residents said, 250 families were taken in government trucks

and moved under armed guard to an area 25 miles south. And at a nearby camp, Otash, officials removed an unknown number of residents and blocked access to aid workers.

"This was not supposed to have happened. This is forced relocation," complained Brig. Gen. Festus Okonkwo, a Nigerian officer from the African Union mission in Darfur. Okonkwo's team of 19 civilian monitors and 56 protective troops is based just eight miles from here, but he said news of the attack took him completely by surprise.

"They tried to remove them and they didn't want to go, so still they bulldoze the houses. No one was aware this was happening," he said.

In Washington, the State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the Bush administration stands with the international community in holding the government of the Sudan responsible for the violations and requests immediate return of the camp residents who were moved Tuesday.

Local officials defended the assault on al-Jeer Sureaf, saying they had been asked by the Sudanese government to remove people from the camps who had been stealing food from nearby communities. Some relief workers acknowledged that outsiders had been entering the camps to receive food and medical aid intended for residents displaced by the war.

Aid officials said they were puzzled by the officials' explanation, because the pre-dawn attack appeared aimed at outsize visitors but at the huts of camp residents who have fled war in other parts of Darfur. Some of those whose huts were torched Tuesday said they had escaped from villages that were attacked and burned by the Janjaweed.



British newspapers carry the story of President Bush's election win on their front pages for Thursday.

Europe at odds over Bush's next 4 years

BY BETH GARDINER

The Associated Press

LONDON — European leaders urged President Bush Thursday to work closely with America's allies on issues like terrorism and the environment in his second term, while critics of the president worried re-election would embolden him to pursue conservative policies more aggressively than ever.

Many European newspapers greeted the president's triumph with dismay.

"Oops ... they did it again," Germany's left-leaning Tageszeitung newspaper said in a front-page English headline.

"How can 59,054,087 people be so DUMB?" Britain's liberal Daily Mirror tabloid asked. "March of the Moral Majority," said the front page of the Daily Mail, above a photo of Bush with his wife and daughters.

In Spain, the conservative Spanish newspaper El Mundo, which vehemently opposed the Iraq war, printed a cartoon showing Osama bin Laden holding up Bush's arm in triumph.

Politicians were more positive. Many had already offered their good wishes after Democrat John Kerry conceded to Bush Wednesday, and the congratulations continued Thursday.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen sent a letter to Bush urging that "we together make an effort to give the relationship between the United States and Europe new energy."

German President Horst Koehler said in a telegram that his country will be a "friend and partner" to the United States.

In Turkey, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he hoped the election results will serve humanity and peace.

Congratulations also came from Estonian Prime Minister Juhan Parts, who promised to continue his country's support

for the war on terrorism and the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq, where Estonia has 45 soldiers.

But on a continent where opposition to Bush's assertive foreign policy — and particularly to the Iraq war — has been strong, much of the reaction was less diplomatic.

The cover of the Swiss newsweekly Facts called Bush's re-election "Europe's Nightmare."

"It is now time to understand that George W. Bush was not a four-year aberration but represents the new America," the magazine said.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said those who disagree with Bush must recognize that he was Americans' choice. "It is in everybody's interests, including that of continental Europe ... that we work together with the United States," he told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

In Asia, many American allies hailed Bush's win as a victory for the global war on terror and hoped his second term would help defuse nuclear tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Others in the region feared a second Bush term could worsen terror turmoil and worsen tension between Muslims and the West.

"It's a victory for the anti-terrorism cause," said Australian Prime Minister John Howard, a staunch U.S. ally and friend of Bush.

"This is a strong reaffirmation of his leadership of the United States in its fight against world terrorism," he said.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said he hoped Bush's win would bring closer ties between Tokyo and Washington.

South Korea said it would continue to "closely cooperate" with Bush for a peaceful resolution of the nuclear dispute with Pyongyang.

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Student IDs required

MO **POPULAR BLUFF** — A new policy at a high school requiring students to wear identification badges has prompted some parents to complain and students to protest the move as an infringement on their rights.

The badges, which are identical to the IDs students always have been required to carry and use to check out library books at Poplar Bluff High School, are now required to be worn on campus during school hours.

"We need to be able to identify people without having to walk up to them and ask if they are a student or a teacher," said Sheldon Tyler, an assistant principal at the high school in this town of 16,700 about 150 miles south of St. Louis.

Some students have put stickers on their badges in protest — a policy the superintendent has permitted as an exercise in free speech. One father, John Durbin, withdrew his two daughters until he can talk to the school board about the policy.

Bridge arrests up

NY **NEW YORK** — Arrests have increased sharply due to a closer eye being kept on bridges and tunnels throughout the city. Authorities have made 1,070 arrests this year as of Oct. 21, a 145 percent increase over all of 2003 at nine crossings including the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, the Brooklyn Battery and the Queens midtown tunnel, the Daily News reported in Monday editions.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials said a larger presence at the crossings, better training and vehicle checkpoints all contributed to the increase.

Police at the crossings have made arrests for violations like drug possession, suspended licenses, and people who fled crime scenes.

"The officers have taken plenty of off the road and it makes it easier for the general public," said Joe Mauro president of the Bridge and Tunnel Officers Benevolent Association.

Near-record corn crop

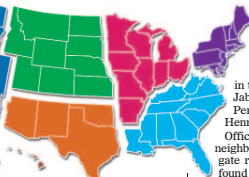
SD **ABERDEEN** — Although much of the corn crop remains in the field, officials estimate crops will yield an average of 120 bushels of corn an acre. The record average yield is 121 bushels an acre set in 1998.

The corn harvest has been slower this year because the crop is damp and needs to dry out.

Doctor suspended

RI **PROVIDENCE** — The state medical board has suspended a Providence obstetrician for misdiagnosing a woman's condition and falsifying her records.

Jason Bernstein had removed a 33-year-old woman's ovaries and uterus in an operation at Women & Infants Hospital in November 2003. The woman's blood pressure and hemoglobin dropped immediately after surgery, and her abdomen swelled, signs that she was bleeding internally. Bernstein ordered blood transfusions, but did not take the woman back into sur-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

gery.

Nurses and residents summoned another doctor, who operated on the woman hours later. She recovered.

The consent order also said Bernstein, 46, falsified the patient's records, when he wrote the woman's hemoglobin was stable, when records show it had dropped. The suspension is for a year, retroactive to January 2004.

Bush, Kerry monkeys

IA **DES MOINES** — Two baby marmosets, who made their debut at the Blank Park Zoo, have a good reason to remember this election season — they've been named George and John for President Bush and his Democratic challenger, Sen. John Kerry.

"We wanted to find a unique way to commemorate the times the presidential candidates monkeyed around in Iowa," quipped Terry Rich, chief executive officer at the zoo. "This has been a wild campaign."

The tiny monkeys, born eight weeks ago, are twins — not that uncommon in marmosets, Rich said. They were kept under close watch until deemed healthy enough to put on exhibit, which just happened to fall on the eve of Tuesday's election.

Professor fatally shot

VA **RICHMOND** — A University of Richmond professor was found dead in his driveway



Dental visit

National Park Service personnel age the teeth of every bison and take photo documentation, which helps track herd health, near Watford City, N.D.

after a neighbor reported hearing gunshots, and police were investigating the death as a homicide.

Police had no suspects in the death of Fredric M. Jablin, 52, said Lt. Doug Perry, a spokesman for Henrico County police.

Officers were called by a neighbor Saturday to investigate reports of gunshots and found Jablin's body. His three children, ages 8, 12 and 15, were asleep inside the home and were unharmed.

An autopsy determined that he died of a gunshot wound to the torso.

Jablin was estranged from his wife, who lives in Texas, and the couple's children lived with him, Perry said. He was a management and communications specialist and an E. Claiborne Robins Distinguished Chair with the private school's Jepson School of Leadership Studies. He joined the school in 1994.

Not-naked drivers

OR **EUGENE** — Forgive some women for being a tad bit miffed when the hunky men who had offered to drive them to polling stations arrived. After all, the men were fully clothed.

The plan had called for the men of Long Tom Grange — Oregon's best known nude calendar — to offer voters a free limo ride to ballot drop-off sites. The men made headlines last year when they bared all for a calendar benefiting local schools.

Linda Roberts was surprised when 66-year-old rancher John Lopes greeted her in jeans and a cowboy shirt. As Mr. May in the group's 2005 calendar, he wore only his belt and boots astride his horse.

The group had considered going topless.

"But it's too cold," Lopes confessed.

Tech fees at Fla. schools

FL **TAMPA** — Leaders of Florida's 11 public universities want to charge students fees that will pay for technology upgrades on their campuses.

The State University Presidents Association said the fee could pay for new computers, equipment and making campuses wireless. Fees would vary at each school, but the association has not determined exactly how much they would be, or how much money they would raise. At the University of South Florida, the fee could add up to \$100 to the average student's annual tuition bill.

Support for detectives

NH **MANCHESTER** — Police investigating the gruesome murder of a woman and her two children are getting some emotional support on the job.

Police Chief John Jaskolka has invited a special team to help his officers deal with what they saw when they discovered the bodies of Tricia Doyle and her two children stabbed to death last month. Jaskolka said the investigation has been hard on his detectives because many of them have young children of their own.



A windmill is silhouetted against stormy skies as a cold front moves through Jones County, Texas.



Puppy politics Delaware State Sen. Colin Bonini, R-Dover, holds his dogs Baskin, right, and Robbins, while greeting voters at a polling place in Milford, Del.



Burst of flames

A Little Rock, Ark., firefighter watches as colleagues spray water onto a gas line fire in Little Rock. Flames were leaping from an intersection in the city's west side.



Beach wheelers

Elizabeth Goodchild, far right, of Essex, England, pushes Becky Roles, left, of Nottingham, England, while Katie Robinson, of Lancashire, England, zooms by on the beach near the boardwalk in Daytona Beach, Fla. The women were taking a break from their job in Orlando, where they are working a one-year internship with others from England.



Adorable alpacas

Deborah Barone, owner of Kickapoo Creek Alpacas in Heyworth, Ill., feeds two of her alpacas as the new baby, Butternut, looks out to the field.

Critical Mass arrests

NY NEW YORK — Police arrested 33 people during a monthly bike ride that attracts hundreds of cyclists, a day after a federal judge ruled that the "Critical Mass" event did not need a parade permit.

Most of the bicyclists were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct for blocking automobile traffic, said Sgt. Michael Wysokowski, a police department spokesman.

The ride began at Union Square Park and headed north on Park Avenue, but eventually splintered into a few different groups.

Police, who were out in force, urged riders to stick to a specific route and passed out flyers which said cyclists could be arrested for violating traffic rules.

Between 1,000 and 1,200 cyclists took part in the ride, said Leah Korig, a volunteer with the group Time's Up, which advocates the monthly event. Many were dressed in costumes to mark Halloween.

Rx tape at school

TX SOUTHLAKE — An Election Day government lesson for some North Texas third-graders also included what school administrators said was a sexually explicit videotape.

Johnson Elementary School students were inadvertently shown part of the video as they were leaving an auditorium Tuesday after viewing the government tape.

Teachers had taken the students into the auditorium, ejected an unmarked tape from a video player and played the lesson on the three branches of government, Julie Thannum, a spokeswoman for the Carroll school district, said Wednesday.

Afterward, a teacher placed the original video into the videocassette recorder. That video, including pornographic images, began playing as teachers led students out of the auditorium.

Officials said the video was quickly stopped by teachers and that most students didn't see the few seconds of tape. Thannum said School Principal Jane Cousins turned the tape over to police and sent a note to parents Tuesday afternoon telling them about the mishap.

"It's certainly not anything appropriate to be on any of our campuses," said Thannum.

The video player had not been used since last month, when vandals had broken into the school last month, she said, and the tape might have been left behind then.

Funds misused

RI PROVIDENCE — The former president of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island used \$10,000 of the company's money to purchase two stones to honor his family at a local church.

The engraved stones are outside the St. Francis Chapel in downtown Providence. The engravings honor the former president's parents, Ray and Irene Battista, of Warwick. The payment was accounted for as "charitable contributions," The Providence Journal reported.

Board chairman Frank Montanaro told The Journal he was unaware of the contribution.

"That is something new. I wasn't aware of that. I don't think the board would be aware of that," he told the newspaper. "We don't mismanage the affairs of the company."

Battista resigned in May, after it became known he had received a \$600,000 to help pay for his divorce from his longtime wife and other perks from the nonprofit insurer, the largest in Rhode Island.

E. coli outbreak

NC RALEIGH — At least seven people, most of them children, have been infected by E. coli in an outbreak that may point to the North Carolina State Fair's petting zoo.

State health officials alerted physicians, health departments and hospitals to be on the lookout for more cases. Doctors were awaiting test results in several other suspected cases. Health officials urged parents to seek sick children at home.

Nearly all the confirmed cases are children. State Fair officials have tried to alert the owners of the petting-zoo animals, R.W. Comerford and Sons of Connecticut, of a potential problem. These animals — goats, lambs, pigs and a few zebras and antelope — travel the fair circuit up and down the East Coast, State Fair manager Wesley Wyatt said.

Mafia estate for sale

AZ TUCSON — The house of the late boss of the Mafia's New York-based Bonanno crime family is for sale on eBay.

The estate of Joseph Bonanno is asking \$495,000 for his Tucson home, where he lived from 1972 until his death in 2002. Bonanno is widely acknowledged as the direct inspiration for the "Godfather" series of movies.

Trees lose water war

CA LA QUINTA — A conservancy group is going to war with water-sucking, nonnative tamarisk trees in the Santa Rosa Mountains.

Volunteers will hike into Bear Canyon this weekend to chop down the trees that are sapping water that could be used by bighorn sheep and other wildlife. A tamarisk, also known as a salt cedar, can use 200 gallons of water a day.

Attempted candy theft

CT SIMSBURY — A 12-year-old boy hung onto his pillowcase filled with Halloween candy despite being beaten and dragged nearly 100 feet by two teenagers who tried to steal the loot, police said.

The boy, who was wearing a costume, was trick or treating Sunday night on Phelpscoff Road when two teenagers carrying skateboards beat, kicked and dragged him, police said.

Police arrested the two teens about a half-hour after the incident.

One 16-year-old suspect was charged with second-degree robbery, third-degree assault and attempted larceny. The other teen, a 15-year-old, was referred to juvenile court.

The 12-year-old victim did not require hospitalization but was sore from his injuries, police said.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Ali attends 'topping off' ceremony

Muhammad Ali posed for pictures, gave out hugs and performed magic tricks for about 150 people who turned out for a "topping off" ceremony at the downtown Louisville, Ky., center named for him.

The event was to mark reaching the center's highest point. As part of Monday's ceremony, a large crane was to hoist the highest beam into place on the steel frame of the six-story Muhammad Ali Center. But rain kept that from happening, and the beam was lifted only a few feet off the ground.

The \$34.5 million, 93,000-square-foot center is scheduled to open Nov. 19, 2005. It will include 24,000 square feet of exhibits, featuring six themed pavilions. Each will focus on a different trait of the former heavyweight boxing champion.

Lonnie Ali, Ali's wife, said the Alis are committed to the center "becoming a global gathering place, where individuals not only have a platform for ironing out their differences, but a place" to motivate visitors to strive.

Howard: Times good for independents

More interest in plot- and character-driven movies means times are good for independent films, says Oscar-winning director **Ron Howard**.

"There's an ever-expanding interest in stories, thank God," said Howard, who will appear at the Asheville Film Festival in North Carolina this weekend. "More and more, there are compelling financial reasons — the artistic reasons have always been there — to make films that target a smaller audience base."

The Asheville festival runs Thursday through Sunday. Howard, who won a best-director Oscar in 2002 for "A Beautiful Mind," will be in town to attend the Spotlight Celebration Awards Dinner on Saturday night. His father, longtime character actor **Rance Howard**, will receive a lifetime achievement award.

Finding money for independent films has also gotten better, though financing any movie, independent or otherwise, is never easy, said Howard, who shared the best-picture Oscar for "A Beautiful Mind" with producing partner **Brian Grazer**, in a phone interview Monday.

Brandy splits from record label

Brandy is looking for a new record label.

Brandy, 25, split from her long-time label, Atlantic Records, her publicist, **Courtney Barnes**, announced Monday. The departure came after relatively disappointing sales of her last album, "Afrodissiac." Although the album generated the moderate hit "Talk About Our Love" with **Kanye West**, it disappeared quickly from the charts.

It's a departure from her previous three albums, all of which sold at least 1 million copies.

Barnes says Brandy is looking at other labels and also plans to be an executive producer of a comedy series for Fox television next year.



Brandy

Wyclef Jean on peace mission

Hip-hop star **Wyclef Jean** visited Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to try to help end a wave of violence that has left at least 79 people dead, including several police officers and two street gang leaders.

The singer met with community and gang leaders in Bel Air on Sunday as gunshots rang out. The neighborhood, filled with supporters of former President **Jean-Bertrand Aristide**, has become a flash point for violence.

Jean said he planned to talk to all sectors of Haitian society during his four-day visit to promote dialogue and peace for a peace concert in December.

The U.S. presidential election could help or hinder the process, he told The Associated Press.

"Everyone is watching the elections so close from here," he said.

Story and photos from The Associated Press



Artist **Jon Laymon** — now a designer on "Trading Spaces" — created this "Jungle Book"-themed nursery for his son.

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY

TRADING SPACES' DESIGNER TOOK A CAREER GAMBLE THAT PAID OFF

BY JEAN PATTESON
The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — Jon Laymon took a gamble late last year and won.

First, he and his wife, Stacy Laymon, won the chance to appear on four episodes of "Trading Spaces: Home Free," the popular TLC cable-TV series.

By the season's end in April, the Laymons had beaten out seven other couples in a series of redecorating competitions to win the popular vote — and enough prize money to pay off the mortgage on their new, four-bedroom, \$250,000 home in Ocoee, Fla.

Then Laymon, an artist and sculptor, went up against three professional interior designers on the show's fall-season opener, "Trading Spaces: Pick the Next Designer." Again, the telegenic Laymon garnered the most viewer votes — and an offer, instantly accepted, to continue as one of several paid designers on the original "Trading Spaces."

"I love it," says Laymon, 31. "I'm an artist playing a designer on TV."

He's not an actor, he says. He is simply "doing what I do" on camera.

What he does — or rather, what he did before being discovered by "Trading Spaces" — is animatronics, or animated sculpture. He was the art director at an Orlando company that designs, builds and installs the giant jungle creatures that decorate Rainforest Cafe restaurants around the world.

Early this year, after winning the first leg of "Home Free," Laymon told his supervisors he needed time off to compete in additional episodes. He was told to choose: the game show or his job.

"I called Stacy," he says. "She said, 'If you don't do this, you'll regret it. You'll always wonder what might have happened. Go for it.'"

So he took the gamble. He quit his job of 11 years for a shot at winning a reality TV show.

Laymon is a natural when the cameras are rolling. Happy-go-lucky by nature, he thrives on the adrenaline rush of racing the clock to redecorate a room on a tight budget. And it doesn't hurt that he looks like a long-haired version of Brad Pitt.

Laymon is "dedicated, inspired and brings an incredible energy to everything he does," says Kathy Davidov, TLC executive producer of "Trading Spaces."

"His background as a sculptor and an art director shines through in unique, imaginative designs," she says. "He has an approachability that our viewers seem to really appreciate and identify with."

Stacy, 29, a hairdresser, is chic and vivacious. Their son, Dylan, was born in July 2003 — six months before his parents became TV celebrities.

A native of Ohio, Laymon graduated from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh before moving to Orlando.

When he and a friend moved into their first apartment in Orlando, "our landlord felt so sorry for us when we saw our two bags of dirty laundry, she gave us a wicker chair and a coffee table — oh, and a clock radio, so we'd have music."

Today, he has a state-of-the-art sound system and a TV about the size of a double bed.

It was late last year when the Laymons' neighbors, Jay Stanley and Melanie Leffer, suggested the two couples enter the "Home Free" contest, in which neighbors redecorate spaces in each other's homes in the hopes of winning enough cash to pay off their mortgage.

The four friends made a videotape, introducing themselves and their makeover ideas, and shipped it off to TLC. A few weeks later, they were selected to be on the show.

Each couple was given \$2,000 to rework the other's bedroom. Stanley and Leffer's Asian-themed design was striking. But the Laymons' interpretation of a "royal suite" theme for their neighbors — complete with fabric on the ceiling and a textured wall finish made from a mix of coffee grounds, berries and plaster — captivated more viewers.

The public's continuing votes of confidence propelled the Laymons into the final episode — and won them the grand prize.

"Basically, Melanie's idea paid for this house. It was her idea to do the show," says Laymon.

But there are no hard feelings, says Stanley. "We've actually become closer friends because of the show. We were happy if it wasn't us that won, it was our friends who won." Laymon's "quirky creativity" and good looks make him ideally suited to the show, says Stanley. "He's off-the-wall, left-of-center, and that makes him appealing."

YOUR MONEY

Tracking 401(k)

Experts: Money best in 1 or 2 stocks

By AVYRUM D. LANK

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MILWAUKEE — When Korie Khongphand-Buckman came to work at the Milwaukee office of Deloitte & Touche last December, she faced a common dilemma: what to do with the money in the 401(k) retirement account she had left behind at her former employer.

She had several choices, but the 25-year-old senior marketing coordinator quickly decided to transfer the money to the 401(k) she had established at Deloitte.

"My husband is an accountant," the Port Washington, Wis. resident explained. "He told me I had to do it." The couple liked the convenience of having the money all in one place.

Khongphand-Buckman was lucky to have a good adviser so close by. Many people have to figure out on their own what to do with old accounts. It is an important decision.

"Enrolling in a 401(k) and home ownership are among the top priorities for my clients," said Michael Arnove, a certified public accountant and financial planner in Glendale, Wis.

Under the law, there are four possible options for a 401(k) parked at a former employer.

- Leave the money in the existing account.
- Withdraw it and pay taxes on it.
- Roll it over to the new employer's 401(k).
- Move it to an Individual Retirement Account.

Most 401(k) plans offer these options, but not all. The law provides considerable leeway to sponsors, so it pays to check the provisions of a particular plan.

Names after the section of the Internal Revenue Code that regulates them, 401(k)s are similar to IRAs: Money contributed grows on a tax-deferred basis until withdrawal. Unlike an IRA, however, both employers and employees can contribute to 401(k)s in pre-tax dollars.

Typically, sponsoring companies offer a limited range of investment options.

About 45 million Americans have 401(k)s, up from 37 million in 1998.

Much of their appeal is linked to their portability: 401(k)s are attached to the individual, not to the employer. That is in contrast to traditional pensions, which were set up and maintained by one employer even after a worker moved on to another company.

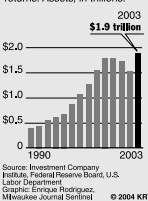
Now, though, many people change employers frequently. According to a recent study by the U.S. Census Bureau, people born between 1957 and 1964 are likely to have more than 10 jobs prior to retirement. In such a mobile society, few workers will hang around long enough to accumulate a large traditional pension from any one employer.

Meanwhile, they are likely to amass 401(k) balances on each job.

That is when people are faced

401(k) assets

Assets in 401(k) retirement plans rose sharply last year as the stock market posted good returns. Assets, in trillions:



Source: Investment Company Institute, Federal Reserve Board, U.S. Labor Department

Graphic: Spencer Rodriguez, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

© 2004 KRT

with the decision about what to do with their collection of accounts.

Typically, employers do not want to baby-sit low-balance accounts owned by former employees. Often, plans specify they will not keep account balances less than \$5,000 for former employees. In such cases, the former employer can force a worker to either move the money to an IRA or new 401(k) or to withdraw it and pay any required taxes.

In most cases, that translates to regular income tax rates plus a 10 percent federal penalty.

Employers with a small balance does not make a choice, then he or she usually is sent the money, less 20 percent withholding for taxes.

Moving the money from an old 401(k) to an IRA usually is the best plan in any event, even for those with balances of more than \$5,000, according to both Arnove and Reb Tortz, a financial planner with Lincoln Financial Advisors in Brookfield, Wis.

For mom, Santa Fe good place to start

Dear Tom and Ray: Here's my dilemma: I'm a fun, sporty, active 46-year-old mom of three. I've been driving a minivan for 14 years now, and I need a change! I'm interested in the smaller sport utility vehicles, and recently test-drove a Hyundai Santa Fe. Needless to say, I loved it. But I'm curious as to your thoughts on that vehicle. Have you driven one lately? What do you think of Hyundai, overall? I know you guys like the Subaru Outback and Forester, but to be honest, I felt they were both a tad too small. Plus, I did not care for the feeling of being low to the ground, like a sedan. I prefer to be "up" a little bit, if you know what I mean. I don't want some huge SUV that guzzles gas and scares people half to death, either. I myself am only 5 feet tall, and I don't want to feel overwhelmed by the vehicle I drive. I still have more test-drives to do, but I wanted some input. Thanks for your help. — Janet

TOM: Well, first of all, congratulations on this important, life-altering event, Janet. It's a milestone in a woman's life. You know — there's graduation, marriage, motherhood and dumping the car.

RAY: And good for you for not wanting a huge, honking SUV. American buyers are getting wise to the fact that they're overpriced, oversized, overly thirsty and over the bumper of other interesting vehicles in an instant.

TOM: We like that Hyundai Santa Fe. It's a small SUV that's based on a car platform. That

means it's more economical, handles better, is easier to get in and out of, and is more comfortable than the larger, truck-based SUVs. So it doesn't quit quite as many mothers-in-law — who

RAY: And the Santa Fe still has the world's best-designed rear-lift-gate handle. Its shape fits your hand, and it's located right where your right hand would naturally reach out, rather than in the middle of the lift gate, where most of them as if they had an awful, for rear-lift-gate handles, it would absolutely go to the Santa Fe.

TOM: Add to that a very reasonable price and Hyundai's 10-year power-train warranty, and you really can't go wrong.

RAY: But you're right to test-drive other vehicles, Janet. You might take a ride in the Toyota RAV4, the Honda CR-V and the Ford Escape (which has a high-mileage, hybrid-electric version). You want to make sure that whatever you drive, you feel comfortable and in control behind the wheel. Some cars just "fit" some people better than others — like that plaid suit, white belt and white shoes fit my brother.

TOM: And if you're comfortable about the ride, you'll be a better driver. So, look around to see which small SUV feels right to you. Good luck, Janet. Let us know what you end up with.

Got a question about cars? Write to Tom and Ray in care of this newspaper at 4.9 million mortgage and real estate transactions. Click on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES		High	Low	52-week
		High	Low	Low
Dow Jones Industrial	10,513.25	10,526.50	10,508.00	10,480.00
S&P 500	1,274.46	1,274.46	1,274.46	1,274.46
Nasdaq	2,413.26	2,413.26	2,413.26	2,413.26
Dow Jones	6,798.12	6,802.45	6,798.12	6,798.12
Nasdaq	1,319.75	1,319.75	1,319.75	1,319.75
Nasdaq	2,153.82	2,153.82	2,153.82	2,153.82
S&P 500	1,163.23	1,163.23	1,163.23	1,163.23
S&P 500	986.45	986.45	986.45	986.45
S&P 500	696.42	696.42	696.42	696.42
S&P 500	113.17	113.17	113.17	113.17

NYSE		Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
		Volume	Price	Volume
Alcoa	59,807	1.61	+0.02	1,230,000
Amgen	48,196	27.07	+0.10	1,230,000
Boeing	29,717	29.71	+0.10	1,230,000
IBM	29,717	29.71	+0.10	1,230,000
Microsoft	29,717	29.71	+0.10	1,230,000
Norfolk	29,717	29.71	+0.10	1,230,000
Oracle	29,717	29.71	+0.10	1,230,000
United	29,717	29.71	+0.10	1,230,000
Verizon	29,717	29.71	+0.10	1,230,000
Walmart	29,717	29.71	+0.10	1,230,000

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS		High	Low	52-week
		High	Low	Low
Alliant Techsystems	29.71	29.71	29.71	29.71
Boeing	29.71	29.71	29.71	29.71
General Dynamics	29.71	29.71	29.71	29.71
Lockheed Martin	29.71	29.71	29.71	29.71
Northrop Grumman	29.71	29.71	29.71	29.71
Raytheon	29.71	29.71	29.71	29.71
United Technologies	29.71	29.71	29.71	29.71
Westinghouse	29.71	29.71	29.71	29.71
Worthington	29.71	29.71	29.71	29.71

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		High	Low	52-week
		High	Low	Low
British pound	\$1.2328	\$1.2328	\$1.2328	\$1.2328
Japanese yen (Nov. 5)	104.00	104.00	104.00	104.00
South Korean won (Nov. 4)	1,089.00	1,089.00	1,089.00	1,089.00
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37698	0.37698	0.37698	0.37698
British pound	\$1.2474	\$1.2474	\$1.2474	\$1.2474
Denmark (Krone)	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45
Denmark (Krone)	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7889	0.7889	0.7889	0.7889
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7889	0.7889	0.7889	0.7889
Hungary (Forint)	129.281	129.281	129.281	129.281
Israel (Shekel)	4.2454	4.2454	4.2454	4.2454
Jordan (Dinar)	0.7099	0.7099	0.7099	0.7099
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2696	0.2696	0.2696	0.2696
Philippines (Peso)	56.37	56.37	56.37	56.37
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1.6556	1.6556	1.6556	1.6556
Singapore (Dollar)	1.11607	1.11607	1.11607	1.11607
South Korea (Won)	1,089.00	1,089.00	1,089.00	1,089.00
Thailand (Baht)	1.468000	1.468000	1.468000	1.468000

Commercial rates		High	Low	52-week
		High	Low	Low
British pound	\$1.2328	\$1.2328	\$1.2328	\$1.2328
Japanese yen (Nov. 5)	104.00	104.00	104.00	104.00
South Korean won (Nov. 4)	1,089.00	1,089.00	1,089.00	1,089.00
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37698	0.37698	0.37698	0.37698
British pound	\$1.2474	\$1.2474	\$1.2474	\$1.2474
Denmark (Krone)	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45
Denmark (Krone)	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7889	0.7889	0.7889	0.7889
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7889	0.7889	0.7889	0.7889
Hungary (Forint)	129.281	129.281	129.281	129.281
Israel (Shekel)	4.2454	4.2454	4.2454	4.2454
Jordan (Dinar)	0.7099	0.7099	0.7099	0.7099
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2696	0.2696	0.2696	0.2696
Philippines (Peso)	56.37	56.37	56.37	56.37
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1.6556	1.6556	1.6556	1.6556
Singapore (Dollar)	1.11607	1.11607	1.11607	1.11607
South Korea (Won)	1,089.00	1,089.00	1,089.00	1,089.00
Thailand (Baht)	1.468000	1.468000	1.468000	1.468000

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for the United States, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-U.S. currency exchange rates, see (U.S. purchasing British pounds in Germany, for example) at the bank where buying currency. All figures are foreign exchange rates, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close		High	Low	52-week
		High	Low	Low
Gold	\$450.50	\$450.50	\$450.50	\$450.50
Silver	10.45	10.45	10.45	10.45
Palladium	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Platinum	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Rhodium	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Ruthenium	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Silver	10.45	10.45	10.45	10.45
Platinum	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Palladium	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Rhodium	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Ruthenium	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate		High	Low	52-week
		High	Low	Low
Discount rate	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
3-month bill	1.95	1.95	1.95	1.95
3-month bill	1.95	1.95	1.95	1.95
3-month bill	1.95	1.95	1.95	1.95
3-month bill	1.95	1.95	1.95	1.95

Wells Fargo data theft

Dow Jones Newswires

NEW YORK — Thousands of Wells Fargo & Co. mortgage and student loan customers may be at risk for identity theft after four computers were stolen last month from a vendor that prints loan statements.

The computers were taken from the Atlanta office of Regulus Integrated Solutions LLC, contained customer names, addresses, and social security and account numbers.

No passwords or personal-identification numbers were in the database.

There is no indication that the stolen information has been misused, Wells Fargo spokeswoman Janis Smith said.

Regulus, which also services other big banks, didn't return phone calls seeking comment.

The bank declined to say how

many people may be affected. But Wells Fargo, a \$422 billion financial-services company, has about 4.9 million mortgage and student loan customers and serves about 890,000 customers through its education-finance division.

The bank notified customers by mail last week after finding out about the theft and urged them to take precautions such as filing a security alert with the three major credit bureaus.

Additionally, the bank is offering a year of free identity-monitoring service, Wells Fargo Select Identity Theft Protection, to customers who enroll by March 31, 2005.

It marks the third time in about a year customers have been stolen continuing personal data of Wells Fargo customers.

The bank said it isn't aware of any misuse from the two previous occasions.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy skies. Highs in the 50s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s.

Ireland, Ireland: Mostly cloudy skies. Highs in the 50s, Saturday lows in the 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy skies. Highs in the upper 50s to mid 60s, Saturday lows in the upper 40s to low 50s.

France: Mostly cloudy skies. Highs in the mid 50s inland, with highs along the southern coast in the upper 60s, Saturday lows in the upper 30s to low 50s.

Northern Germany: Cloudy skies with isolated rain. Highs in the mid 50s, Saturday lows in the upper 30s to mid 40s.

Southern Germany: Cloudy skies with rain showers. Highs in the 50s, Saturday lows in the lower 30s to mid 40s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy skies. Highs in the upper 50s, Saturday lows in the lower 30s to low 40s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy skies. Highs in the lower 70s, Saturday lows in the upper 50s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy skies. Highs in the mid 70s, Saturday lows in the mid 50s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy skies. Highs in the upper 50s to mid 60s, Saturday lows in the lower 40s to mid 50s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy skies with rain showers. Highs in the 40s, Saturday lows in the upper 20s to low 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy skies. Highs in the mid 60s to lower 70s, Saturday lows in the lower 40s to mid 50s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy skies. Highs in the lower 60s in the north, to lower 80s along the southern coast. Saturday lows in the 50s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at:
<https://www.sembach.af.mil>
<http://www.public.sembach.af.mil>

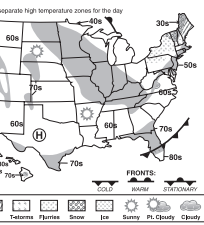
SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:06	6:29am
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:23am	7:44am
Sunset (Baghdad)	5:56pm	5:07pm
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:56pm	4:44pm



THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



KEY:

Sunny, Partly cloudy, Mostly cloudy, Cloudy, Showers, Tornadoes, Rain, Rain/snow, Snow, Cold front, Warm front, Trough, Jet, Jet break, Occluded front, Stationary front, Low High

AFRICA

Capetown	83	74	LO	Mogadishu	88	76	HI	LO
Dakar	73	57	HI	Nairobi	79	61	HI	LO
Freeport	86	76	HI	Rabat	79	61	HI	LO
Kinshasa	87	72	HI	Tripoli	82	58	HI	LO

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	53	46	HI	LO	Manila	88	80	HI	LO
Bahamas	87	71	HI	LO	Mexico City	72	52	HI	LO
Beijing	57	32	HI	LO	Montreal	46	36	HI	LO
Bombay	80	68	HI	LO	Nairobi	79	61	HI	LO
Buenos Aires	75	66	HI	LO	Rio de Jan	89	72	HI	LO
Calcutta	88	74	HI	LO	Sao Paulo	89	72	HI	LO
Chennai	88	74	HI	LO	Sofia	56	38	HI	LO
Hankow	88	74	HI	LO	Sydney	72	64	HI	LO
Hong Kong	82	70	HI	LO	Tokyo	66	57	HI	LO
Kobe	67	52	HI	LO					

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska	53	46	HI	LO	OK	53	46	HI	LO
Alaska	53	46	HI	LO	OK	53	46	HI	LO
Alaska	53	46	HI	LO	OK	53	46	HI	LO
Alaska	53	46	HI	LO	OK	53	46	HI	LO
Alaska	53	46	HI	LO	OK	53	46	HI	LO
Alaska	53	46	HI	LO	OK	53	46	HI	LO
Alaska	53	46	HI	LO	OK	53	46	HI	LO
Alaska	53	46	HI	LO	OK	53	46	HI	LO
Alaska	53	46	HI	LO	OK	53	46	HI	LO
Alaska	53	46	HI	LO	OK	53	46	HI	LO



Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Horoscope

The spicy aspects of the Scorpio sun are highlighted on this, the last day of the workweek. It's time to cut loose for sure. The last quarter moon is in outgoing Leo. Whatever kind of evening you're planning, do it in style.

Appearances may be a shallow way to assess people and situations, but it's also the most accurate now.

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (November 5). Your intuition guides you into a pretty picture! Loved ones call you "lucky," and indeed, by this time next month, you've got the cash to prove it. Singles will find it much easier to finally break any bad relationship cycles they've fallen into. You will have learned from past mistakes and won't repeat them this time. Lucky love signs are Taurus and Libra.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Something has been eating at you for weeks. It's time to put any self-doubts to rest on this subject. You're either happy with your current situation, or you're not. If you're not, fix it, or forget about it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are not responsible for anyone's happiness but your own — not even the happiness of your children or spouse. Do what you can to be helpful. But ultimately, it's up to them to decide if the glass is half empty or half full.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've got a really fun weekend ahead of you. To take full advantage, try to balance it out with equal parts rest and activity, mental and physical plans. Do try to include some sort of music or art component as well.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Don't be an emotional doormat. It's nice to be open and welcoming, but sooner or later, you're going to resent people wiping their feet on you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Resist the urge to splurge this weekend. Instead, you should be conserving

your resources. That means money, time and energy. Trust me, you're soon going to need as much as you can get. Stay home, and chill out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you're finished scrubbing the bathroom floor and polishing the interior of your oven, stop to say hello to your spouse and children. You show your love by taking care of your environment, but use your words to share love, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Loneliness can be an opportunity. When you feel it, ask yourself if perhaps you're looking to others for approval and love, rather than looking inward. You are never truly alone. You're part of the very fabric of the universe.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). With a little more confidence, you can make a situation go your way. The worst thing you can do is get defensive. That stinger of yours is lethal, but this may be one of those lights where both sides lose.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Self-control is hard to come by now. Remember, you want people to take you seriously, so it's important to keep your word — even to yourself. Doing otherwise sends mixed messages.

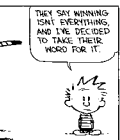
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You know you're right, so you may butt heads with someone when you don't mean it. It's probably because he/she accidentally pushed your buttons and brought your insecurities to light. Show your strength by yielding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you are in the position to teach someone, don't hold back. Providing the tools for knowledge does not take anything away from you. On the contrary, the more selfless you are, the more you benefit.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). That overactive imagination of yours is going in a million different directions at once, which may cause you to lose things — your keys, your sunglasses, your wallet. Take charge. Enlist a Virgo pal to help.

Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



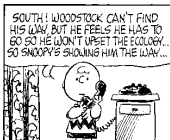
Better or Worse



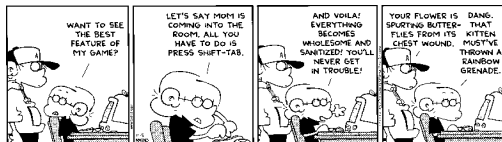
To our readers

For the past decade, this column has been written by Joyce Jillson and Holiday Mathis. Ms. Jillson passed away on Oct. 1. Because Ms. Jillson and Ms. Mathis wrote in advance, columns they prepared will run through Nov. 6. Beginning Nov. 7, the horoscopes will be re-named "Horoscopes by Holiday" and will be authored by Ms. Mathis.

Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



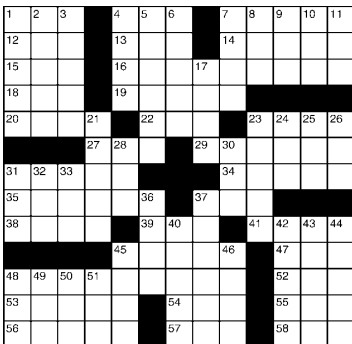
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 —relief
4 Orange vegetable
7 "Maltese Falcon" sleuth
12 Past
13 Fuss
14 Claw
15 Hosiery shade
16 Last one in?
18 Figure head? (Abbr.)
19 Night vision?
20 The lady's
22 Freddy's street
23 Verifiable nickname
27 Possessed
29 Satisfy
31 Frequently
34 Mystery writers' award
35 Irving Berlin song
37 Blue
38 Reindeer's runaway
39 Prompt
41 88 days on Mercury
45 Bamboo eater
47 Thai language
48 Dutch port
52 Sphere
53 Lie in store for
54 Call-day link
55 34-Across' eponym
56 Home on the range?
57 Cub Scout group
58 Conclusion

Down

- 1 Sheetload of cookies
2 Open-mouthed
3 Bat signal?
4 Play area
5 Put on a pedestal
6 "Psycho" setting
7 Branch
8 Skillet
9 Renfest beverage
10 Follow relentlessly
11 U.K. tongue
12 Pack down
21 Bundle of wheat
23 White House
24 Scott Joplin's
48 Switch
49 Buy now, pay later
50 Savion Glover's skill
51 Father's Day gift amount
30 Meadow
31 Scull tool
32 "Alice" spinoff
33 Jefferson's bill
36 Cicatrix
37 Tranquillize
40 Loosened
42 Seek a J.P., maybe
43 Brown of CNN
44 In a kimono, maybe
45 Samparas or Seeger
46 "— for All Seasons"
48 Snitch
49 Buy now, pay later
50 Savion Glover's skill
51 Father's Day gift

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-5

CRYPTOQUIP

Y P V G R G Y S G D K S P R K
D G Y H I G K S Y N G A U V G V D G
A P Z D U F G P Z Y A D G S H K F

U N P J I G D A P J P D U I P
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CARPENTER
GETS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A CRIMINAL
ACT, I SUPPOSE HE'S NAILED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals O

Keep hands off stepdaughter

Dear Abby: I have a problem I can't discuss with my family. I am 45 years old, married for 12 years, and I am in love with my wife's daughter from her first marriage.

"Danica" is 24 and married. I have had these feelings for her for quite some time. Danica is fun to be around and very pretty when she smiles. We have talked when she has been over to visit her mother, and she drives me crazy. My wife says I have a crush on her daughter. Thank God she doesn't know how much I love her. I asked Danica out to dinner one night, just the two of us. It was going well until I spilled my guts and told her how I felt about her. She was shocked. The only thing she said was I was married to her mother and she was married. I asked her if she had anything else to say, and she replied that she didn't know what to say. Needless to say, the rest of the night didn't go well. I took her to her car and told her the offer was always open.

Dear Abby



Smitten in San Antonio

Dear Smitten: No. The first thing you should do is take a cold shower and wake up. You have slipped from fantasy into obsession, created a rift in the family and made a fool of yourself. Stop with the calls and roses. You and Danica will never be "friends" now that your inappropriate feelings are out in the open.

Dear Abby: Please

accept my apology for thinking that every time you advise counseling you were "passing the buck." After years of abuse and three nightmare marriages, I am finally finding myself through psychiatric care.

After my husband of 27 years left, I was shattered — terrified. I couldn't stop crying. I made a desperate call to a mental health hotline and was advised to go to the nearest emergency hospital. My physician met me there and I admitted myself to their psychiatric ward. It was the beginning of a new life.

Everyone I encountered, from the person in admitting to the doctors and nurses, the staff and other patients, helped me. I started to heal. The counselors were truly giving and caring. I signed myself out after five days, but continue going in for weekly counseling.

Thank you for always being there, Abby. I know you were there for me.

— Sunshine in South Carolina
Dear Sunshine: Thank YOU for sharing your personal success.

When you were in crisis, you were wise to recognize it for what it was and get help.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.usexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GULEN
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

CENUD
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

BOUSTE
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

BOFRID
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Ans: "□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

Jumbles: FAMED KNELL AFFIRM DENTAL
Answer: When he visited his pal the baker, indeed he found a — FRIEND IN "KNEAD"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



YOU MIGHT SAY THAT LYING IN THE SHADE TURNED THE STEER INTO THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Underwear: A personal choice

Dear Annie: Our 14-year-old son, "Kirk," has been going without his underpants since he returned from a school program three weeks ago. I learned this when his 11-year-old sister tattled during a sibling squabble. When pressed, Kirk said all the other guys were doing it and they dared him to do it, too.

I think this is very weird and worry that Kirk may get an infection or injury himself. His dad, however, sees nothing wrong with leaving the underwear off and admitted doing the same at Kirk's age. In fact, my husband has given Kirk permission to continue doing this. After a little father-son chat, my husband also found out that Kirk now sleeps naked. (Another dare from his classmates.) I am not too concerned what he wears around his bedroom, but I do worry that he will be embarrassed or hurt by the lack of underwear. Do you think go without underwear pants? Does it mean that he's gay or having sex? On top of those

Annie's Mailbox



worries, I am concerned that Kirk is so susceptible to "dares."

What do you say, Annie?

— Wear Underwear in Colorado

Dear Colorado: "Going commando" is not unheard of, although it is not exactly hygienic. His slacks would have to be washed daily. It has nothing to do with being gay or sexually active. Yes, Kirk can be injured if he slips up (or down) too quickly, and he's certain to be embarrassed if he should tear his pants in the wrong place (not to mention insect bites if he wears shorts in the summer).

This is not worth a fight. Mention the consequences and let Kirk decide.

Dear Annie: I am a 33-year-old woman, married, with two children.

My friend "Barb" asked me to

baby-sit for her 2-year-old son full time (about 45 hours a week). However, I was shocked when she offered me only \$25 a week. I was thinking more along the lines of \$75-\$100.

Barb said she couldn't afford that.

Barb and her husband both have full-time, decent-paying jobs. They just spent quite a bit of money to "super size" their truck, but somehow don't have enough to pay me to care for their son. Am I being selfish to ask for more?

— Crying Baby Blues

Dear Crying: Of course you aren't being selfish. She expects you to be a full-time baby sitter for part-time wages. If Barb truly has financial problems and you can afford to help her out for \$25 a week, go ahead and do it, but otherwise, she is taking advantage of you.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus

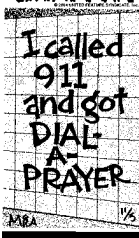


11-5

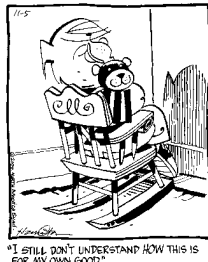
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www.familycircus.com

"That means, 'Don't fall out of bed.'"

GRAFFITI

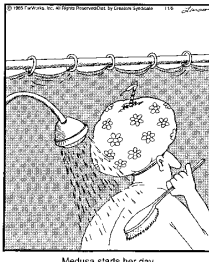


Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



Spurrer rules out returning to Florida

Stoops, Meyer, Tedford considered leading candidates to replace Zook

BY MARK LONG
The Associated Press

GAINESSVILLE, Fla. — Steve Spurrier left his time with the Florida Gators had passed.

After spending more than a week thinking about it, Spurrier decided Thursday to remove his name from consideration to replace Ron Zook.

"He said he's done his thing here and he just thinks it's better for us to go find a coach who will be here for the next 10 or 15 years," athletic director Jeremy Foley said.

The Gators won six Southeastern Conference championships and the 1996 national title under

Spurrier. He posted 122 victories over 12 seasons, tormented opponents with his offensive flair and witty one-liners, and left town with the best winning percentage in league history.

Zook, who was hired in 2002 when Spurrier left to coach the Washington Redskins, was fired last week after the latest in a series of embarrassing losses, but will finish the season. Spurrier, who quit the Redskins after two losing seasons, was widely considered the leading candidate for the open job.

Foley and Spurrier exchanged several phone messages this week, trying to set up an interview with school president Bern-

ie Machen after the season.

"They were obviously making an effort to meet with me," Spurrier said in a statement.

But Spurrier's latest message ended all speculation about returning to his alma mater, Foley said.

"When I departed three years ago, there were several reasons why I believed it was time to move on," Spurrier said. "Other than simply wanting to coach in the NFL, someday, I also believed that 12 years at Florida was probably long enough. Many people in football believe that around 10-12 years in the same job is about the maximum time a coach should stay."

Some close to the 59-year-old Spurrier say he doesn't want his career to end on a losing note, and predict he will give the NFL another shot. It could come soon.



Spurrier

phins — even though Dave Wannstedt has not been fired.

"I have not been offered any coaching job by any team, and I'm not searching for one," Spurrier said.

Spurrier's decision, though, should make Florida's coaching search easier.

Oklahoma's Bob Stoops, Utah's Urban Meyer and Cal's Jeff Tedford are considered possible candidates.

Stoops, who spent three sea-

sons as Spurrier's defensive coordinator at Florida, has repeatedly denied interest in the Gators job. But a university source speaking on the condition of anonymity said Stoops might reconsider with Spurrier out of the picture.

Machen hired Meyer at Utah in December 2002, and Meyer's diverse offense would be welcomed in Gainesville after Zook failed with his NFL-style approach. But Meyer has no ties to Florida, which would make recruiting tough.

Tedford has spent his entire career on the West Coast, but he could be the perfect blend between Spurrier and Zook. His quarterbacks and offensive line have turned Cal into one of the top offenses in the nation, and his recruiting efforts match anyone in the country.

Florida wants to have a coach in place by mid-November.

NHL cancels All-Star Game

BY IRA PODELL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In another sign the NHL season is slipping away, the league canceled its All-Star Game Wednesday because of the lockout.

No regular-season games have been played since the season was scheduled to begin Oct. 13, and NHL arenas have been given the go-ahead to release dates on a 45-day rolling basis. With the All-Star Game off the schedule, the next announcement could be the cancellation of the entire season.

"To call off something that's a lot of fun for the fans to enjoy is a shame," nine-time All-Star Jeremy Roenick of the Philadelphia Flyers told The Associated Press. "It has no bearing on anything. They still haven't canceled games in January. Why haven't they canceled games in January but they're canceling the All-Star Game?"

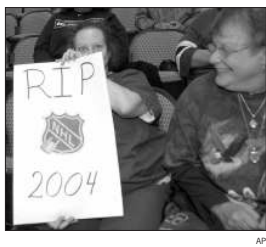
Bill Daly, the league's chief legal officer, said this decision "is not tactical at all," saying it was more of a practical decision to free up blocks of hotel rooms and other facilities that would've been needed.

"We had to make a decision on whether making those advance commitments made sense," Daly said in Dallas prior to an open forum with fans. "Given where we are with the status of our negotiations, it didn't warrant making those commitments. ... It's not tactical at all."

The lockout, which entered its 49th day on Wednesday, was imposed by Commissioner Gary Bettman after the collective bargaining agreement expired on Sept. 15. Bettman declined comment on the cancellation of the game, which was scheduled to be held in Atlanta in February.

The NHL and the players association haven't met since Sept. 9 and have no plans to return to the bargaining table.

The lockout during the 1994-95 season also forced



Leni Sommer, left, holds a sign as Cindi Thomas looks on during a town hall meeting on Wednesday with NHL Executive Vice President Bill Daly and Dallas Stars President Jim Lites in Dallas.

the All-Star Game to be canceled. That lockout ended when an agreement was reached in January 1995. Each team then played a 48-game schedule.

A new deal would have to be reached by the same time in this season for any part of the campaign to be salvaged.

"The season is likely to slip away," Bettman said in an interview this week with TSN in Canada. "Whether or not we miss half a season or three-quarters of a season, or don't have a season at all — that is not the issue from our standpoint. We need a deal that is the right deal to address the problems and let us go forward."

"Then if there is time for the semblance of a season, we'll have one. If not, we'll see you next season or whenever."

The NHLPA made the last proposal in September, a plan centered around a luxury tax instead of a salary cap. The NHL rejected it because the league says that won't achieve "cost certainty."

The players association says that term is tantamount to a salary cap, which it won't accept.

Croom content with quiet homecoming

BY JOEY MCCREARY
The Associated Press

STARKEVILLE, Miss. — Sylvester Croom was ready to rescue Alabama.

His beloved alma mater was scrambling after an abrupt, embarrassing coaching change last year, and Croom wanted the job.

But the Crimson Tide spurned him for one of his protégés — Mike Shula and broke his heart.

Now at Mississippi State, Croom is checking his emotions before a return to his hometown of Tuscaloosa on Saturday night, and defusing talk about turning the game into a referendum on which coach Alabama should have chosen.

"That's beside the point. Mike's their head coach, and I'm here," Croom said. "From my standpoint, that's not changing — not any time soon."

Shula also is trying to keep the focus on the field, not the sideline — even though after last year's losing season in Tuscaloosa some Alabama fans say the Tide picked the wrong guy.

"It's not Coach Croom vs. Mike Shula," he said. "It's about our players. It's about our universities, our programs."

Shula has never hidden his disappointment about not getting the Alabama job. He had more experience than Shula and he coached and played under Bear Bryant.

But as game day neared, Croom refused to say whether he has any sour feelings about Alabama's choice.

"It's in the past," said Croom, who was an NFL assistant for 16 years. "That's history."

"The great thing about being in the NFL is, I am learning how to stay on an even keel. I'm going to do the same thing this week."

But one thing is clear: The first black head football coach in Southeastern Conference history

could have been walking the home sideline at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Croom's name is synonymous with accomplishment at Alabama — the team issues an award bearing his name every spring — and he was one of the Crimson Tide's first black players.

His tireless work ethic was revered there, and it made him a standout offensive lineman on Alabama's national championship team in 1973. Croom coached under Bryant and Ray Perkins before moving to the pros.

And he seemed a natural fit last year when Alabama fired Mike Price for his activities at a strip club.

The search turned up two prominent names — Croom and Shula. Both were assistants with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the late 1990s, and Shula was a quarterback at Alabama during Croom's last season there in 1986.

Alabama went with Shula amid complaints from some that the Crimson Tide hired the wrong man. Some, like Rev. Jesse Jackson, said race may have played a part in Alabama's decision. Debating with a 4-9 record didn't help Shula quiet the critics.

Mississippi State gleefully scooped up Croom months later. He led the Bulldogs to a 5-3, 3-3 record then-No. 20 Florida in one of the season's biggest upsets two weeks ago, then followed it up by beating Kentucky.

"Alabama hired you they wanted to hire," said Bulldogs punter-turner Jonathan Lowe, whose father and uncle played for the Tide. "I guess they felt like Shula was better than Croom. Mississippi State got Croom, and we're going to show them that we've got to do what we've got to do."

"Winning a road game is all that matters this week," Croom said.

AP Sports Writer John Zener in Tuscaloosa, Ala., contributed to this report.

Wild's Zholtok, 31, dies during a game

BY TIMOTHY JACOBS
The Associated Press

RIGA, Latvia — Latvian hockey players, officials, and fans were saddened Thursday after national star Sergei Zholtok died while playing in Belarus.

Zholtok left the Belarus team Riga 2000, the club he was playing for during the NHL lockout, and Dinamo Minsk about five

minutes before it ended on Wednesday night. He went back to the locker room, collapsed and died, Riga 2000 president Viesturs Kozlovs told The Associated Press in Riga.

Zholtok, who was known to have an irregular heartbeat, was 31. An autopsy was scheduled for Thursday.

Zholtok missed games twice last year while playing with the

Minnesota Wild, and suffered from dizziness and fatigue.

After leaving a game in January 2003, he was kept in a hospital overnight for observation. He was diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat, or arrhythmia. After missing seven games, he was cleared to return to the lineup.

Zholtok was a key forward for the Wild during their unexpected playoff run that spring.

Owens' words are why he's "the bad guy"

BY LES BOWEN

Philadelphia Daily News

PHILADELPHIA — This week, there is no grudge match looming for Terrell Owens. But it isn't too late to rethink last week's controversy.

Analysis

Owens began Wednesday's weekly media session noting support he received from Steelers linebacker Joey Porter in a Tuesday newspaper story. Porter, whose team hosts the Eagles this week, endorsed Owens' celebrations, specifically his mocking of Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis during the Eagles' 15-10 victory on Sunday. That does qualify as news.

The last couple of weeks, the story has been opponents' feuds with the Eagles' standout wide receiver.

But while reveling in Porter's words, Owens left the Baltimore fuse, highlighting a Porter reference to Lewis' involvement in a 2000 double-murder case.

Porter, who also has feuded with Lewis, sounded a favorite of Owens' in Tuesday's Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: Other players celebrate flamboyantly, and some of them have even had off-the-field issues, which Owens hasn't, yet few are as widely viewed as T.O.

Lewis' case, those off-the-field issues include an agreement to plead guilty to misdemeanor obstruction of justice and testify against two of his friends after a double-murder at an Atlanta-area nightclub in January 2000. (The friends were acquitted.)

"It's fine for this guy to celebrate, but it's not fine for this guy," Porter was quoted as saying. "It's good for this guy to be creative, but it's not good for this guy. Why is it funny when Terrell does the non-point? You guys can make who the good guys are. The media has total control over that."

"It's discouraging at times that I get labeled and put in that same mold and that I'm the worst guy that ever put on a uniform in the NFL."

Terrell Owens

Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver



"But this guy (Lewis) just comes off a murder case and he comes back dancing and goes to the Super Bowl and you love every minute about it. He gets a four-minute introduction when he comes out. They absolutely go crazy for it. He makes a tackle, he dances every play and you guys love it. Terrell scores a touchdown and he does his celebration and, for some reason, you guys just choose, 'We don't like you. You aren't one of the guys we pick.' I never thought it was fair."

This was music to T.O.'s diamond-studded ears. Owens has puzzled over his lack of endorsements and the league's apparent reluctance to market him.

"I'm obviously not one of those who are a face of the NFL that they're going to have on commercials.... It's discouraging at times that I get labeled and put in that same mold and that I'm the worst guy that ever put on a uniform in the NFL," he said. "It's funny, it really is. I listen to all the comments and at times, it baffles me."

"I never had any off-field problems. I've wanted to say it for a long time, but since Joey put it out there, you have a guy like Ray Lewis, who I thought was pretty much my friend. This is a guy, double-murder case, and he could have been in jail, but it seems like the league embraces a guy like that. I'm going out scoring touchdowns and having fun, but I'm the bad guy."

So I don't understand it, I really don't."

"I listen to ESPN and all the guys that report on there, it's really funny.... I just take it with a grain of salt and I keep thinking, I know they're looking for me to do something (off the field) or something to come up, but it's not going to happen."

In an instance of art imitating life, or something like that, Owens' words quickly made it to ESPN Wednesday evening, with a panel of analysts that included ex-Eagle Mike Golic expressing sympathy for Lewis and condemning Owens for bringing up the murder business. ESPN also read a statement from the Ravens, who thought they'd traded for Owens' rights last March, then were forced to accept a fifth-round draft choice instead when the NFL brokered a trade to the Eagles.

"Like the rest of the NFL community, we would expect nothing less from Terrell Owens," the statement said.

Then on ESPN's "Raiders of the Interruption," Tony Kornheiser and Michael Wilbon found rare agreement, bashing Owens for bringing up Lewis' brush with the law.

Earlier, Lewis told reporters in Baltimore that he'd had a chance to see Owens' imitation of his signature dance on tape, and likened Owens' version to "a four-year-old" trying to do the dance. At that point, apparently, Lewis did not know

about Owens' comments Wednesday.

For what it's worth, Owens had a defender Wednesday night on the NFL Network's "NFL Total Access." Ex-star receiver Sterling Sharpe said, "I think Terrell Owens says a lot of what people in the NFL want to say. I'm not talking about specifics with Ray Lewis. I think T.O. is a guy that says what's on his mind and what a lot of other people think. I think he's correct in saying that there are a lot of people in this business who don't like to treat this guy unfairly, because all he does is go out and help his football team win games.... The thing is, I don't know if a lot of guys in our business like T.O."

Coach Andy Reid said Wednesday that Owens' current teammates like him. "I think it starts with T.O., and the way he takes in his teammates and makes them feel a part of the whole thing as far as the team goes," he said. "He doesn't shut himself out in the locker room as an individual. He's part of the team, and that's important. And the way the guys have allowed him to be a part of the team I think also is a big thing."

There have been potential flash points for teammates, as they've navigated messy T.O. conflicts with the Ravens, or with Browns quarterback Jeff Garcia, or Lions coach Steve Mariucci. Owens, who leads the Eagles with 42 catches for 697 yards and nine touchdowns, is the only Eagles wideout to score a touchdown this season.

Toward the end of his time with reporters Wednesday, Owens — apparently not realizing he had been asked to do so — feuded with Lewis — said he was going to enjoy the lack of any built-in conflict, as he prepared for Pittsburgh.

"It's going to be a stress-free week for me," he said. "I'm pretty sure my teammates are relieved that I'm going to be able to answer a bunch of questions about 'whatever.' [But] the week is not over yet."

Dallas' Johnson might get the ball a lot more

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Keyshawn Johnson doesn't have as far for the ball in Dallas. The Cowboys will be giving it to him more.

Even after his mistakes. Going into the last game, Johnson was the only active Dallas receiver who had made a catch in the NFL. Yet it was his misuses that caused two interceptions, both when Vinny Testaverde threw directly to defenders after Johnson cut routes the wrong way.

The outspoken receiver's responses to the games last season accepted the blame.

"I got caught pressing, trying to get involved, trying to make a play because I've got younger guys playing with me," he said. "Both of them were my fault.... I'm big enough and strong enough to say I know I made those mistakes."

And he responded on the field with his first two-touchdown game in two years. Both scores came against double coverage, including the game-winning 38-yarder with 1:54 left when he split Detroit defenders.

With Terry Glenn (foot) done

for the season, Quincy Morgan hobbled by a hamstring problem and rookie receivers brought up from the practice squad, Johnson is sure to become even more of a focus in the offense — and for opposing defenders.

But that's really nothing new for the three-time Pro Bowler who reunited with coach Bill Parcells and Testaverde in Dallas this season.

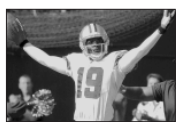
"It's been the same way for me my whole career," Johnson said Wednesday. "I've always been the target guy."

On and off the field.

Johnson was deactivated the final two games last season in Tampa Bay. He wasn't happy and didn't get along with Jon Gruden, the coach with whom he won a Super Bowl.

He got his wish and was reunited with Parcells, his coach with the New York Jets from 1997-99. And he got a \$20 million, four-year contract with Dallas.

But he's going to be in the fight of him don't bother Johnson. Fans have seen clips of his sideline confrontation with Gruden. They heard reports during a television broadcast last month — though Fox had no video showing it — that he confronted Cowboys assist-



Keyshawn Johnson made mistakes that led directly to interceptions on Sunday, but he also had his first two-TD game in two years.

coach Sean Payton, which the receiver vehemently denies.

"Me, I go out there, I still make my money, still paid at the highest level at my position," he said. "I still go out there and make plays at the highest level at my position, both catching the ball, running, blocking, decoying.... doing all that."

And that's why he remains one of Parcells' favorite players.

"You know first of all that I have confidence in the player, he's willing to admit his mistakes," Parcells said. "He plays a lot of different spots that's involved with a lot of stuff mentally, and it's not all perfect at the time. But he's going to be in the fight, his good is good."

Johnson leads the Cowboys with 30 catches for 448 yards and four touchdowns. He has extended his streak of games with a catch to 126, second to Marvin Harrison's 130.

Season has been a pain for Saints' McAllister

BY MARY FOSTER

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Deuce McAllister spent the New Orleans Saints' off week at the movies.

McAllister watched video from last year, when he rushed for 1,641 yards. The difference between then and now was striking.

"You see a healthy Deuce McAllister and you see a hurt Deuce McAllister — that's the big difference," McAllister said.

The Saints made up the package for McAllister hoping he can use it to return to his old ways. Last season, McAllister set team records for yards rushing and yards from scrimmage with 2,157. This year, McAllister has 200 yards on 82 carries and eight receptions for 52 yards.

"This year, the big thing is that he's been hurt," said Saints running back coach Dave Atkins. "He was hit on his knee in the first game, then he sprained his ankle in the second game. He hasn't been himself all year."

McAllister injured his ankle on his third carry against San Francisco. He was expected to be sidelined six games, but missed two. Since returning, McAllister has worn a brace, which he said limits his ability to cut to the side.

With a week off and time to rest the ankle, he won't wear the brace Sunday against the San Diego Chargers.

"Not playing this past Sunday helped me, but I'm still not 100 percent," McAllister said. "But I'm a lot better than I was two weeks ago."

Adding to McAllister's misery are fumbles. He lost one in each of the first two games, then fumbled twice in a loss to Tampa Bay.

"We always emphasize ball protection," Atkins said. "But I don't want him to think about it. I just want him to make it a standard part of his game."

The game plan for most teams is to try to strip the football, McAllister said. I don't think I've fallen into the secondary where a size mismatch makes stripping a better decision than trying to knock down a runaway 235-pound running back.

The doctors think the ankle is now strong enough that McAllister can run effectively without the brace. He hopes that means he can again make plays like the ones on the tape.

"I haven't even had a big run," McAllister said. "I don't think I've had a run over 20 yards and I think my game is better than that."

Francis lifts new-look Magic to victory in season opener

Former Rocket scores game-winner against Bucks

BY MIKE BRANOM

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Orlando Magic are off to a good start in their quest to erase bad memories.

Steve Francis made a winning layup with two-tenths of a second remaining in his Orlando debut to lead the new-look Magic to a 93-92 victory Wednesday night over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Francis, acquired in an off-season trade, finished with 26 points. Grant Hill added 15 in his return from a 21-month layoff due to injury. Top draft pick Dwight Howard had 12 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks.

For a franchise trying to shake off a 61-loss nightmare season, this thrilling victory was the ideal way to start.

"That's a good opening night when you have a game like that, and you pull it off and win it," Orlando coach Johnny Davis said. "It certainly sets things off on a positive direction."

The Bucks took a 92-91 lead on Michael Redd's banked 3-point shot with 3.5 seconds to play in their opener. Redd finished with 19 points.

On the final possession, Hill inbounded from the left side to Francis. He beat Mo Williams on the turn to the basket and got the shot off despite being fouled.

"I've hit some shots in my career, but I think this one is even more special because this is my first official game for the organization," said Francis, part of a seven-player swap that sent disgruntled star Tracy McGrady to Houston.

The trade highlighted the Magic's massive overhaul during the summer. Orlando has just four players remaining from April's roster.

"The guys in the locker room now don't have a reference point for what happened last year," Davis said. "We don't even talk about what happened last year. Last year is gone."

The buzzer sounded as Francis' shot fell, and the Magic celebrated before racing off the court when they saw the officials consulting.

"I heard the horn go off, so as far as I was concerned the game was over," Davis said.

But his counterpart didn't see it that way.

"I think the question was not whether the shot was good, but whether the clock started on time," Milwaukee coach Terry Porter said. "It's irrelevant at this point."

After a three-minute review, the referees let the shot stand but reset the clock and brought the Magic back out for Francis' free throw. Francis intentionally missed the foul shot, and time expired.

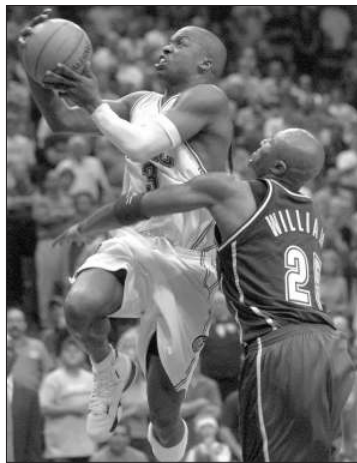
Francis' heroics were needed because the Magic let a 15-point lead slip away. Milwaukee went up 85-81 with 6:27 remaining on four straight baskets, the first and last coming from Redd.

"I know there are no moral victories, but we played hard and that's a good sign for us," said Redd, who led five Bucks in double-figure scoring.

The teams then traded points until the end, with two ties and four lead changes before Francis' last shot.

"They made some plays, we made some plays," Porter said. "And they made the last play."

Hill made 10 of 21 shots in his first regular-season action since



Orlando Magic guard Steve Francis, left, scores the winning basket with 0.2 seconds left in the game as he is fouled by Milwaukee Bucks guard Maurice Williams in Orlando, Fla., on Wednesday night.

Jan. 16, 2003. After sitting out last season following the fourth operation on his left ankle, Hill was forced to be critical of his game (four turnovers and only four rebounds) rather than his health.

"It was fun for me to be out there, fun for us to be out there and fun to get the win," said Hill, who played just his 48th game since joining the Magic before the 2000-01 season.

Injury-plagued Pacers hold off Cavs in double OT

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — They're limping. They're aching. They're wearing casts. And somehow, the Indiana Pacers are 1-0. Ron Artest scored 31 points and Jamaal Tinsley added 15 points and 14 assists as the banged-up Pacers opened the season with a 109-104 double-overtime victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday night.

After initially planning to rest his sore right knee, Artest decided to play shortly before tipoff, and then gave the Pacers everything he had, adding nine rebounds in 50 minutes.

"Twenty-five minutes before the game I wasn't playing," said Artest, who knew the Pacers couldn't afford to have him wince. "I wanted to play. I can play with pain." Zydrunas Ilgauskas tied a career high with 35 points and added 18 rebounds. LeBron James added 28 points, eight assists and five rebounds for Cleveland, which was unable to take advantage of Indiana's injuries.

The Pacers were without starters Jermaine O'Neal (sore left foot, Reggie Miller (broken right hand) and Jeff Foster (hip surgery), as well as guard Anthony Johnson (broken right hand).

Three of them sat on Indiana's bench in street clothes, well-dressed and well-paid cheerleaders.

"This was a big win because we were without so many guys," Tinsley said. "But we stuck together and made things happen."

Austin Croshere added 20 points for Indiana and sank a crucial three-pointer with 54.6 seconds left in the second overtime to

put the Pacers ahead 105-102. After Fred Jones lost control of the ball, Croshere made it up in the corner and made his three.

"It just rolled to me," said Croshere, who was then interrupted by Jones. "That was a pass, Cro," Jones joked.

The Cavaliers made two turnovers before pulling within a point on Robert Traylor's two free throws with 13.9 seconds remaining.

Jones then hit two free throws to put Indiana up 107-104 with 12.1 seconds to go.

James, who forced overtime with a three-pointer late in regulation, was short on another three and Tinsley put it away by making two free throws with 4.8 seconds remaining.

James felt like the Cavaliers let one slip away.

"We didn't execute down the stretch," he said. "We gave up a lot of easy buckets. Too many turnovers, too many missed shots. It was just a tough loss."

Cleveland got only four points and six rebounds from Drew Gooden, who the Cavaliers are hoping can fill the void left by Carlos Boozer's departure as a free agent.

Timberwolves 99, Knicks 93: At Minneapolis, MVP Kevin Garnett had 28 points and 20 rebounds.

Latrell Sprewell had 10 points against his former team. Sam Cassell added 19 points and 11 assists for the Timberwolves.

Stephen Marbury, also up against his old club, led the Knicks with 27 points.

76ers 98, Celtics 95: At Boston, Alton Iverson scored 30 points, five during an 11-4 fourth-quarter run when the 76ers took the lead. Former Celtics coach Jim O'Brien returned to Boston with the Sixers, and the World Series trophy made its first appearance at the FleetCenter.

But the Celtics, in Doc Rivers' debut, were unable to re-create the success of the Boston Red Sox — or even the Boston team O'Brien coached to the conference finals in 2002.

Paul Pierce had 35 points and 13 rebounds, but missed a three-pointer at the buzzer that could have tied it. Gary Payton, making his Boston debut, had six points and eight assists.

Wizards 103, Grizzlies 91: Antawn Jamison scored 34 points as Washington won in the first regular-season game at the new arena in Memphis.

Jason Dixon had 28 points and Jarvis Hayes added 20 points and nine rebounds for the Wizards, who outscored Memphis 32-11 in the third quarter to take control.

Bonni Wells led Memphis with 19 points.

Mavericks 106, Hornets 91: Dirk Nowitzki, Michael Finley and Jerry Stackhouse helped visiting Dallas ruin Byron Scott's coaching debut with the Hornets.

All three scored 19 points, and Dallas had three other players reach double figures.

Baron Davis led the Hornets with 25 points, and Jamaal Magloire and David Wesley added 11 apiece.

Spurs 101, Kings 85: Tim Duncan scored 30 points and Ray Allen made three three-pointers in his debut with San Antonio.

Manu Ginobili finished with 24 points and Barry had 16 on 6-for-9 shooting. Duncan had 14 rebounds and Rasho Nesterovic added 12.

The Spurs improved to 8-0 in openers since Duncan joined the team in 1997.

Suns 112, Hawks 82: Amare Stoudemire had 18 of his 23 points in the first half, helping Phoenix win the opener for both teams.

Stoudemire also had eight rebounds and two blocked shots. Joe Johnson scored 17 and Steve Nash had 10 points in his Suns debut.

Jazz 104, Lakers 78: Carlos Boozer had 27 points and 11 rebounds in his Utah debut. Andrei Kirilenko added 16 points and eight blocks, and the Jazz opened the season with a record-setting rout of Los Angeles.

The Lakers made only 20 field goals, three fewer than the previous franchise low. Los Angeles shot 24 percent, also the worst in team history.

Matt Harpring finished with 23 points and seven rebounds and Keith McLeod had eight assists — one more than the Lakers — in his first NBA start.

Kobe Bryant led Los Angeles with 38 points, but Lamar Odom, with 14, was the only other Lakers player in double figures.

Trail Blazers 78, Warriors 75: Nick Van Exel scored 13 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to help Portland beat his former team.

Mike Dunleavy missed two three-pointers in the final seven seconds, including one at the buzzer, spoiling the NBA debut of Warriors coach Mike Montgomery.

Shafer Abdur-Rahim added 18 points, five rebounds and four assists for the Blazers.

Clippers 114, SuperSonics 84: Bobby Simmons scored a career-high 30 points and host Los Angeles routed Seattle to win its opener for the first time in eight years.

The victory also was the most lopsided in an opener in franchise history for the Clippers. The previous largest margin in an opener was a 133-110 over Milwaukee in 1976, when the Clippers were the Buffalo Braves.

Rashard Lewis had 24 for Seattle.

NBA
roundup

Mets, Phils hire new managers

Mets lure Randolph away from Yankees; Phils select Manuel

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Willie Randolph is moving across town.

The longtime New York Yankees coach was hired Wednesday night by the Mets, taking over as manager of a troubled team trying to compete with its crosstown rival for success, free agents and fans.

Randolph takes over from Art Howe, fired at the end of the season. The six-time All-Star was to be introduced Thursday during a news conference at Shea Stadium.

Filling the other remaining managerial opening, Charlie Manuel, left to be introduced Thursday by the Philadelphia Phillies as the replacement for Larry Bow, who was fired on the final weekend of the season. The 60-year-old Manuel, who managed Cleveland from 2000-02, inherits a talented but underachieving club that hasn't reached the playoffs since 1993.

Also Wednesday, Houston removed the interim tag from manager Phil Garner, who took over from Jimmy Williams at the All-Star break and led the Astros to the playoffs. Garner received a two-year contract with a team option for 2007.

In New York, Randolph met Wednesday with new general manager Omar Minaya, who also had several interviews with the other finalists, Texas hitting coach Rudy Jaramillo and former Houston and Anaheim manager Terry Collins.

Randolph was a standout second baseman who spent 13 seasons with the Yankees, was a co-captain and helped win World Series titles as a player in 1977 and 1978, plus four more as a coach. He also played for Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Oakland and Milwaukee before finishing his career with the Mets in 1992.

He said last month he had interviewed unsuccessfully in the past for 11 or 12 managerial openings.

"I thought it was very beneficial to have this second round," Minaya said late in the afternoon, before the deal was finalized. "It gives



Charlie Manuel, left, who lasted managed with the Cleveland Indians in 2003 before moving to Philadelphia as hitting coach, will become the Phillies manager. Willie Randolph, a longtime player and coach with the New York Yankees, will become manager of the crosstown Mets.

me a better feel for the decision I have to make."

At that time, he wouldn't say who the front-runner was, but his description of what he wanted fit Randolph perfectly.

"I'm looking for a person, a manager, that's going to have good work ethics, going to communicate with the players, communicate with the front office on a daily basis," Minaya said. "I'm looking for a manager that's going to be able to delegate to the staff. I'm looking for a manager that's going to interact with the community."

Minaya's new manager will have a year-round job, talking frequently with the minor league staff and farm director and visiting instructional and winter leagues during the offseason. The 50-year-old Randolph moved to bench coach under Yankees manager Joe Torre last season after 10 years coaching third base for the Yankees.

"I'm looking for a guy at the end of the day that has leadership qualities," Minaya said.

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner is-

sued a statement Thursday wishing Randolph good luck.

"Willie Randolph was a great Yankee and valued member of our coaching staff. He's made valuable contributions to many of our championship teams as both a player and coach," Steinbrenner said.

"He will be missed but he's truly earned this position."

Randolph nearly was hired by Cincinnati after the 2000 season but withdrew from consideration after the Reds offered a relatively short contract at a below-market salary.

He becomes the fourth black manager in the major leagues, criticized by some for a lack of blacks in managerial positions, and the first in New York. The others currently managing are the Chicago Cubs' Dusty Baker, the Expos' Frank Robinson and Pittsburgh's Lloyd McClendon.

Coming off consecutive last-place finishes, the Mets had a promising first half in 2004 before collapsing after the All-Star break. They finished fourth in the NL East at 71-91, and Howe was fired halfway through a four-year contract.

MLB plans Dom. Rep. exhibitions this spring

The Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — The major leagues plan to put some 2005 spring training games in the Dominican Republic in 2006, when the Boston Red Sox played the Houston Astros twice.

Baseball "wants to strengthen its ties with the Dominican Republic," said Lou Melendez, the commissioner's international operations director.

No dates or teams were announced.

Major league teams last played spring training games in the Caribbean country in 2000, when the Boston Red Sox played the Houston Astros twice.

Major League Baseball has held eight exhibitions in tours in the capital of Santo Domingo since 1936.

Built in 1955, Quisqueya Stadium is the best baseball park in the country, but it doesn't satisfy U.S. baseball's requirements to host official games. Dominican authorities planned to rebuild or remodel the stadium four years ago, but work on it never began.

In August, President Leonel Fernandez said the government might approve a \$75 million project to build a modern stadium in the center of the capital.

"Every year, the baseball industry injects more than \$70 million into the Dominican Republic. Major League Baseball is a great friend of the Dominican people," Melendez said.

There were more than 100 major leaguers from the Dominican Republic playing in the major leagues this season, more than from any country outside the United States.

Turin Olympic chief steps down in power struggle

The Associated Press

ROME — Just 15 months before the start of the Olympic Winter Games, the chief organizer of the 2006 event in Turin is quitting in a power struggle with the Italian government.

Valentino Castellani, head of organizing committee TOROC, said Thursday he will submit his resignation during a board meeting on Nov. 24.

Castellani felt undermined by the government's nomination of Mario Pescante, culture ministry undersecretary and former head of the Italian Olympic Committee, as overall supervisor for the Feb. 10-26, 2006 Games.

Pescante's appointment was confirmed during a meeting in Rome on Wednesday.

"The powers given to Pescante ... represent a lack of confidence in me and in the work I've done up to now, and above all, in the capacity to continue it," Castellani said in a statement.

Sports briefs

TOROC has come under sharp criticism for a million-dollar budget shortfall. The Games have also been hindered by a lack of public awareness and enthusiasm in Italy.

International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge met with Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi last month to press the government to step up support for the Games and encourage state companies to sign up as sponsors.

The right-leaning government responded by appointing Pescante as supervisor, a position that Castellani felt came into direct conflict with his own mandate.

"That's it. It's not worth trying to work this way anymore," Castellani, a former left-leaning mayor of Turin, said.

There was no indication of who may succeed Castellani.

Government officials insisted in announcing Pescante's appointment that his role would not clash with that of Castellani. But the latter considered it a personal attack.

"You can't occupy a position of responsibility like mine and not have the faith and support of all the people who have a responsibility for organizing the Olympics," Castellani said.

Gianni Petrucci, president of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) and one of the members of the commission that nominated Pescante, said he was sorry that Castellani was resigning. But he said Pescante's nomination was backed by all sides, not just the government.

Roddick, Henman upset in Paris Masters

PARIS — Top-seeded Andy Roddick and defending champion Tim Henman were upset in the third round of the Paris Masters on Thursday.

Roddick lost 7-6 (7-2), 6-2 to qualifier Max Mirnyi and Henman was beaten 7-5, 6-1 by unseeded Mikhail Yuznykh.

Yuznykh, who recently won his second career title at St. Petersburg, faces a quarterfinal against Radek Stepanek, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over No. 17 Vince Spadea.

In other action, second-seeded Lleyton Hewitt reached the quarterfinals when No. 14 Nicolas Pietrangeli quit with a thigh injury while trailing 4-3 in the first set. No. 13 Guillermo Canas beat Tommy Haas 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 and Feliciano Lopez defeated No. 11 Andrei Pavel 5-7, 6-4, 6-4. Pavel was last year's runner-up.

Maryland extends Yow's deal

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Maryland athletic director Debbie Yow signed a two-year contract extension through August 2010.

Yow is in her 11th year as AD, during which Maryland has won nine NCAA championships and

33 tournament or regular-season championships in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Summers leads in Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam — Anthony Summers of Australia shot a 6-under on Thursday to take a one-stroke lead after the opening round of the inaugural Vietnam Masters.

Scott Barr was one shot behind and Jason Dawes and Thaworn Wiratchart shot 68.

Summers, 49, is a former U.S. Open champion whose Vietnamese wife, Pavin, was his caddie, shot 71.

GM won't supply IRL engines

INDIANAPOLIS — General Motors will stop supplying Chevrolet engines to the Indy Racing Series after the 2005 season, citing the circuit's falling TV ratings and expensive competition from Honda and Toyota.

GM Racing director Doug Douchard said Wednesday the value of the IRL "no longer met our business objectives."

RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Putting big shoes for Little E

Eury Sr. has been a guiding force behind Earnhardt Jr.'s race team

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

The career of NASCAR star Dale Earnhardt Jr. was just taking off when his father was killed in the 2001 Daytona 500.

Dale Sr., known as The Intimidator, was not a warm, cuddly guy.

He had not always been close to his children, but Earnhardt left no doubt he was proud of his youngest son and was doing everything he could to help Junior move up the ladder in what was then the Winston Cup.

With the elder Earnhardt gone, there was a big void to fill in Little E's life. Into that breach stepped his uncle, Tony Eury.

"There's a kinship," Junior said. "We don't always see eye to eye on everything, but I know he cares about me as a person and I know he isn't going to send me out there in something that isn't safe or isn't right."

"We have a connection that not every driver has with his crew chief, because he's family."

Eury, whose own son, Tony Jr., is Dale Jr.'s car chief and one of his best friends, has been a fixture in Earnhardt's life.

He was crew chief for the elder Earnhardt's Busch teams, then took over as crew chief for Junior when he arrived in the Busch Series, helping the youngster to consecutive championships in 1998 and 1999. When Junior moved up to Cup in 2000, Eury came with him.

"It wasn't always easy," said Eury, who is known by nearly everyone as Tony Sr.

"Sometimes, he didn't want to hear what I had to say and sometimes he just had to do something to see if he could do it. There was times we didn't like each other



Dale Earnhardt Jr., right, talks with his crew chief, Tony Eury Sr., following a practice session at Daytona International Speedway on Feb. 10. Eury has been Earnhardt's crew chief for his entire NASCAR career.

very much, but that's the way families are sometimes. You get through it."

As Earnhardt has turned into a legitimate championship contender, Eury has gained respect inside what is now the Nextel Cup garage, as well as earning considerable credibility with the fans, who recently voted the quiet stocky man with the snow white beard the 2004 Wypall Wipers Crew Chief of the Year.

Junior said it's about time everybody else figured out what he already knew.

"Tony Sr. is one heck of a crew

*"We have
a connection
that not every
driver has with
his crew chief,
because he's
family."*

Dale Earnhardt Jr.

chief," he said. "He has been around this sport for a long time. He's kind of old timey, but he understands how things work and how to get the job done."

"He paid his dues like everybody else without getting a lot of credit. He's worked hard to get his credibility and talent to a higher level, and I'm proud of him."

Heading into Sunday's Checker Auto Parts 500 at Phoenix International Raceway, Earnhardt is fifth, trailing leader Kurt Busch by 98 points with three races remaining in the championship Chase.

Two weeks ago in Martinsville, Earnhardt had severe handling problems and wound up finishing 33rd when the rear end broke in his No. 8 Chevrolet.

Last Sunday at Atlanta, Earnhardt appeared headed for at least a top-five finish when he collided late in the race with rookie Carl Edwards. He wound up 33rd again, but still gained ground on Busch, whose blown engine relegated him to a 42nd-place finish.

"My job at the shop is to keep the people we have happy and pumped up," Eury said. "The hardest part of the job is the people. Right now we've got a good group of people and, hopefully, we can keep them all together."

"We had a blow last week, but we've been pumping them all week [and telling them] that we can still do this and that nobody should get down. Hopefully we can pull it off."

Eury expects Junior and the whole Dale Earnhardt Inc. team to bounce back in Phoenix, where Earnhardt won last fall.

"We thought last year would be our year and we kind of got disappointed," he said. "This year, we kind of slumped in the center and then we kind of got back going again. So when we got back into these last 10, we started performing good every week and got on race tracks that Dale Jr. liked and had a lot of hopes of us pulling it off."

"These last couple of races put us under a lot of heat, but we've determined to win a Nextel Cup. We've got our work cut out for us because our goal now is to lead as many laps as we can and win every race we can, because that's the only way we've got a chance."

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 34: Checker Auto Parts 500, 9:30 p.m. Sunday CET, AFN-Sports.

Last race: Jimmie Johnson is the first Cup racer since 1998 to win three straight races and closed within 59 points of standings leader Kurt Busch after taking the Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Jimmie Johnson
Johnson has moved back into the points lead after a good finish in the week-end Phoenix round. He is on track for his first 1998.

Kurt Busch
Busch has seen his back in the points lead after a good finish in the week-end Phoenix round. He is on track for his first 1998.

Mark Martin
Martin moved into fourth place in the standings after a good finish in the week-end Phoenix round. He is on track for his first 1998.

Last year: Dale Earnhardt Jr. kept his slim championship hopes alive by winning the Checker Auto Parts 500, his second victory of 2003.

NASCAR Nextel Cup
Nextel Cup qualifying record
Rusty Wallace, 134.718 mph, 2000.

Nextel Cup race record
Tony Stewart, 118.132 mph, Nov. 7, 1999

FAST FACTS

Kurt Busch, who had a 222-point lead in August, has had engine failure in three straight races. — Jeff Gordon won four straight races in 1998. NASCAR fined Rusty Wallace \$10,000 on Tuesday for intentionally hitting Ryan Newman's car as the field returned to pit lane following the Oct. 24 race at Martinsville.

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Bashas' Supermarkets 200 at Avondale, Ariz. (Tape-delayed, 6 a.m. Sunday, AFN-Sports).

Last race: Matt Kenseth held off Kyle Busch in a thriller, sports head win the 2003 season. Bobby Hamilton Jr. won the 2002 season. Scott Rogers took the lead in the tight field, but he was out of the race.

Fast facts: Series leader Martin Truex Jr. finished ninth at Atlanta, but still has a 16-point lead over Busch with three races left. — Kenseth, the 2003 Nextel Cup champion, has three Busch's record of 21 set in 2001.

Next race: South Carolina 200, Nov. 13, Darlington, S.C.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

This week: Chevy Silverado 150 at Avondale, Ariz. (Tape-delayed, 5 a.m. Saturday, AFN-Sports).

Last race: Jamie McQuay became the sixth driver in NASCAR history to win a Cup title by taking the Kroger 200 at Phoenix on Oct. 25. Last year Kevin Harvick held off Ted Madsen and won the Silverado 150 in his second victory in 81 career Busch starts.

Next race: Darlington 200, Nov. 12, Darlington, S.C.

CHAMP CARS

This week: Gran Premio Telcel Tequila at Mexico City (Tape-delayed, 4 a.m. Tuesday, AFN-Sports).

Last race: Bruno Junqueira spoiled his bid for a second Mexican Grand Prix title by winning the Texaco 300 in the Australia on Oct. 24. Sebastian Bourdais finished second and will take a 22-point lead over Junqueira in the season-ending race in Mexico City.

Last year: Paul Tracy dominated the Mexican Grand Prix from the pole before a circuit-rundown crowd of 22,021 and moved closer to his first championship.

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Juan Pablo Montoya won in his final race for Williams-Ford, beating Michael Schumacher and Felipe Massa in the Brazilian Grand Prix on Oct. 24.

INDY RACING

Last race: Helio Castroneves picked up his first win in 23 races by taking the season-ending Chevy 300 at Texas Motor Speedway. — Dan Wheldon came the closest driver in any major series to complete every lap of a season.

SPORTS



Unsung Eury Sr. has been instrumental in Earnhardt's success, Page 31

Injured O'Neal big in debut

In Mourning's first game since kidney transplant, he can't contain Heat's 'massive' new center

BY TOM CANAVAN
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The greatest center in Miami history isn't sure that adding Shaquille O'Neal to the Heat lineup makes them a sure thing for the NBA Finals.

To be blunt, Alonzo Mourning thinks a good team can beat the Heat if they can get O'Neal in foul trouble.

The problem for Mourning is that he plays for the New Jersey Nets, a team that was decimated by offseason moves.

O'Neal toyed with Mourning and his mates on Wednesday night in his Heat regular-season debut, shooting 7-for-9 from the field for 16 points in a 100-77 win.

The contest also marked Mourning's first official game since getting a kidney transplant in December.

"It's a good team, but they are vulnerable, they are very vulnerable," Mourning said of the Heat, who reached the Eastern Conference semifinals last year.

Mourning, who spent seven seasons in Miami, insisted a good defensive team could shut down the shooters and the driving lane and give the Heat major problems.

"It's just a matter of approaching the game a little bit better defensively, but they are definitely vulnerable," Mourning said. "When the big fella goes out they rely on jump shooters and Dwyane Wade's penetration."

O'Neal, acquired from the Lakers in the offseason for three starters and a first-round draft pick, was limited to 21 minutes by a hamstring injury that made his availability a game-time decision.

His best stretch came early in the fourth quarter when he bul-

lied his way past Mourning for three baskets inside.

On one series, O'Neal caught the ball deep in the low post, used his oversized posterior to bump Mourning out of the way, then dropped in a layup with no one else around.

On his next trip downcourt, O'Neal freed himself with a shove to the back that the referees didn't see before knocking down a short jump hook.

Moments later, O'Neal got the ball in the low left block and hit a 10-foot baseline turnaround over Mourning for an 83-60 lead.

"It was one-on-one coverage, and I don't know anybody in this league that can guard him one on one," said Mourning, who finished with seven points, five rebounds and four fouls in 14 minutes. "I don't care if he has a pulled hamstring or he is slow — the man is big. He is a massive individual."

O'Neal had help against the Nets. Wade had 21 points, six assists and five rebounds. Udonis Haslem had 18 points, Rasual Butler 16, Damon Jones 15 and Eddie Jones 10.

Richard Jefferson had 19 points and Zoran Planinic came off the bench to add 11 for New Jersey, which looked nothing like the team that went to the NBA Finals in 2002 and '03 and the second round last year, losing to eventual NBA champion Detroit.

In the offseason, All-Star forward Kenyon Martin was traded to Denver and starting shooting guard Kerry Kittles was shipped to the Clippers. All-Star point guard Jason Kidd is starting the season on the injured list after knee surgery in July.

SEE DEBUT ON PAGE 29



Heat center Shaquille O'Neal looks to make a move against Nets center Alonzo Mourning during the third quarter. Despite a hamstring injury, O'Neal made a successful debut for Miami, scoring 16 points.



Randolph heads across town to manage Mets; Manuel hired by Phillies

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Maddox accepts Steelers' promotion of Roethlisberger

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Owens dismayed that he's labeled 'bad guy' despite clean record off the field

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NHL cancels All-Star Game as lockout shows no sign of ending Page 25